

STARRING
HERCULES
NEON
Betty
Bates
STRANGE
TWIN

HIT

COMICS

10¢



DECEMBER
NO. 6

The
RED BEE
RIPS INTO
THE
SWORDSMEN





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM







—

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER THE TRIO ARRIVES AT A LARGE MANSION, WHERE ONLY A SINGLE ROOM IS LIT. . . .



INSIDE AN AGED MAN LOOKS GREEDILY AT A LARGE DIAMOND, WHICH HE HOLDS IN HIS HAND. .



AH! THE DIAMOND THAT KINGS HAVE DIED FOR IS NOW MINE!

BUT NOT FOR LONG, DR. LOTZ!



WHAT? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THE DIAMOND!

IT'S WORTH MILLIONS, AND SINCE I DISCOVERED IT IN EGYPT, I SHALL NEVER PART WITH IT!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I-I-

AAAA!



LEAVING THE DEAD DR. LOTZ, THE THREE FIGURES WALK FROM THE MANSION.. BUT SUDDENLY A FIGURE CONFRONTS THEM. . . .

O.K., BOYS. THIS IS YOUR LAST STOP!

WHAT TH?



THE RED BEE POUNCES ON ONE OF THE NIGHT MARAUDERS WITH THE FURY OF A WILD BEAST. . .



I WON'T GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO USE YOUR SWORD, YOU MURDERER!

SEEING THE OTHER TWO ADVANCING FROM BEHIND, THE RED BEE TURNS, AND...



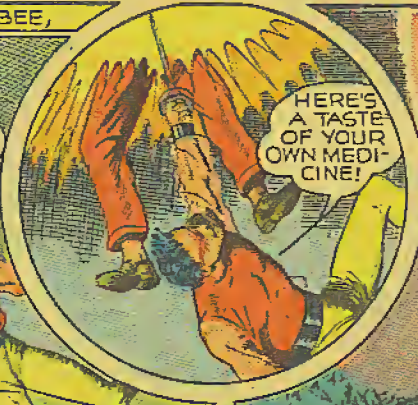
HOLD HIM! WE'RE COMING!

THE TABLES ARE TURNED AND THE RED BEE IS FACED WITH THE SWORDS OF DEATH. . . .



NOW YOU DIE!

THE RED BEE RELEASES HIS PET BEE, MICHAEL.



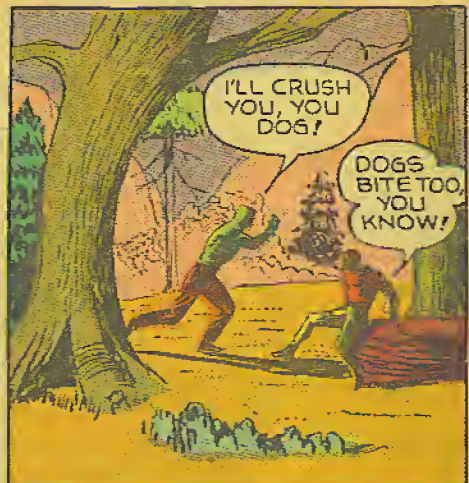
THE RED BEE PLUNGES THE FOIL INTO THE SECOND MAN.



BUT THE LAST MAN'S EFFORTS ARE ALSO FUTILE.



THEN I SHALL HAVE TO SEND YOU TO YOUR ANCESTORS WITH MY BARE HANDS!



THE RED BEE QUICKLY GETS THE UPPER HAND.



BUT THE RED BEE'S ADVERSARY BREAKS FREE FROM HIS HOLD.



THE RED BEE SWINGS INTO ACTION...



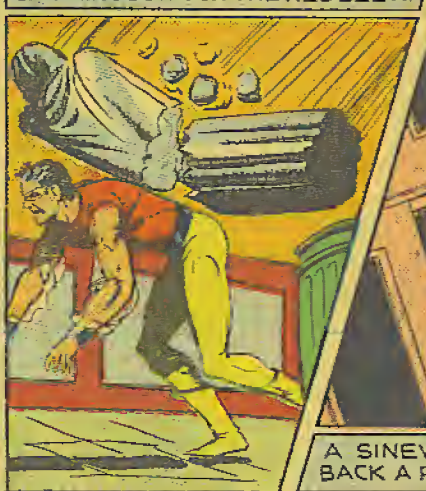
AS THE THUG FALLS, HE PASSES A BUTTON ON HIS BELT WHICH ELECTROCUTES HIM.



THE RED BEE RETURNS TO THE FOREBODING HOTEL.



JUST THEN A HUGE STATUE COMES CRASHING DOWN ON THE RED BEE.



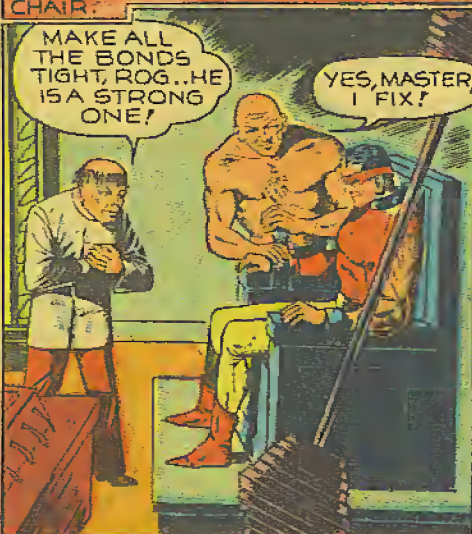
THE MIDGET LIFTS THE HEAVY BURDEN ON HIS SHOULDERS.



THEY FINALLY ARRIVE IN A HUGE UNDERGROUND ROOM.



THE RED BEE IS SECURELY TIED IN A CHAIR.



A TINY BUTTON ON THE RED BEE'S BELT AROUSES THE GIANT'S CURIOSITY.



THE TERRIFIED MIDGET RUNS AROUND THE ROOM UNTIL HE COMES UPON AN OPEN DOOR.



I'LL SHOW HIM! ROG! ROG! PULL THE LEVER!



THE RED BEE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, AND SEES ROG ABOUT TO PULL THE SWITCH.



BUT MICHAEL IS ALERT, AND ROG NEVER COMPLETES THE CIRCUIT.



MICHAEL FORCES ROG TO RELEASE THE RED BEE.



BUT AS GOR LOOSENS THE STRAPS, HE SEES KULAK STANDING IN THE DOORWAY.



SO YOU'RE THE LITTLE FELLOW WHOSE BEEN CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE!



NOW, THAT LITTLE PEST CAN'T HARM ME! HEE!



THE HEAT, THAT THIS GIVES OFF IS VERY GREAT! AND ANYTHING WHICH I TOUCH WILL MELT BEFORE YOUR EYES! MY CLOTHES AND THIS HELMET PROTECT ME!



PLEASANT LITTLE GADGET.

YOU MISSED THAT TIME, KULAK, TRY AGAIN!



YES, I MISSED, BUT I WILL GET YOU! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM THIS ROOM!

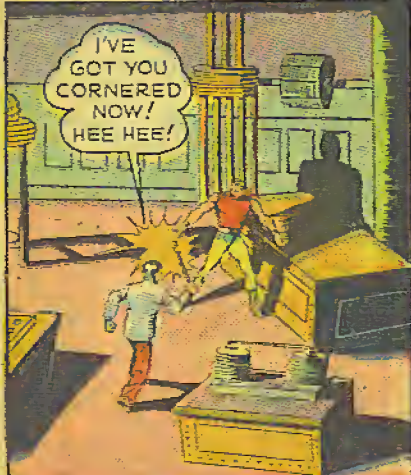


SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU... BUT, I LIKE FRESH AIR!



OFF!

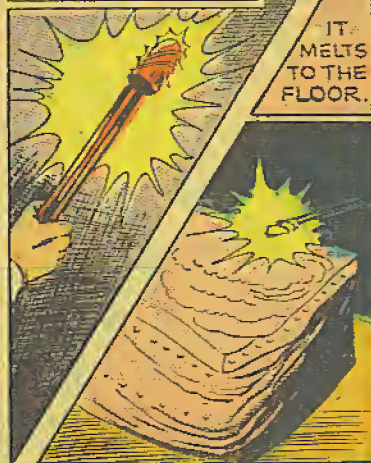
KULAK CORNERS THE RED BEE AT THE OTHER END OF THE ROOM...



NOT YET, HALF PINT!



KULAK STRIKES THE TABLE OVER WHICH THE RED BEE LEAPED.

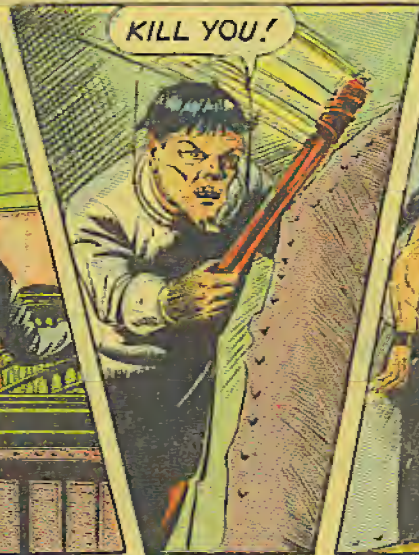


OKAY, KULAK, YOU CAN HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE.

YOU, YOU, I'LL I'LL...



KILL YOU!



ALTHOUGH KULAK MISSES, THE FLYING SPLINTERS FROM THE STAND STRIKE RED BEE, AND...



HEE HEE! WHY DON'T YOU TRY RUNNING AWAY NOW?



MICHAEL MANAGES TO SLIP UNDER THE HELMET...

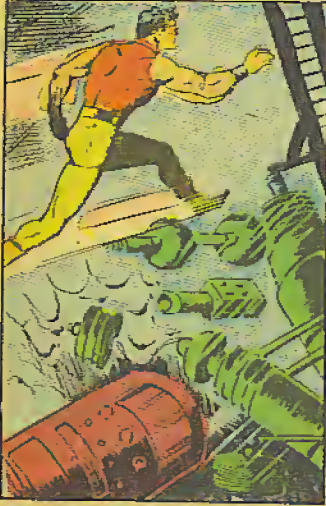


KULAK DROPS THE HEAVY ROD WHICH STRIKES HIS UNPROTECTED FEET!

AS THE ROD TOUCHES THE FLOOR, IT BEGINS TO BURN A HOLE...



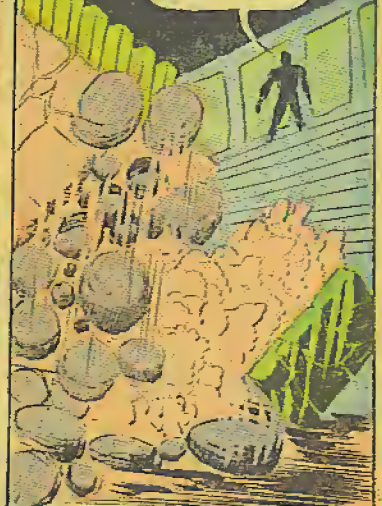
THE RED BEE LEAPS OVER
THE RUINS FOR THE DOOR...



BATTERING DOWN THE DOOR, RED
BEE MAKES FOR THE STAIRS...



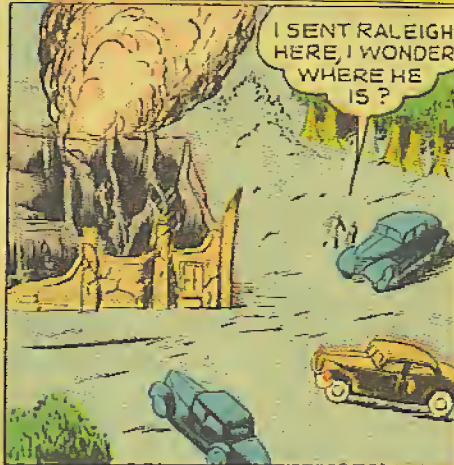
NOW WHAT?
I'M TRAPPED!



WHAT? MICHAEL!
YOU KNOW WHERE
THE SECRET
-PANEL IS?



SEVERAL MINUTES LATER THE
POLICE FIND THE OLD HOTEL
IN COMPLETE RUINS.....



I SENT RALEIGH
HERE, I WONDER
WHERE HE
IS?

SIR, I FOUND
THIS FELLOW
KNOCKED OUT
IN THE
-BUSHES!

RALEIGH, WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE?



I DON'T KNOW,
SIR, LAST I
REMEMBER WAS
WHEN THE RED
BEE KNOCKED
ME OUT... I
GUESS NOTHING
HAPPENED..



WHAT! FOUR MEN ARE
FOUND ELECTROCUTED
AND THIS BUILDING
SUDDENLY COLLAPSES,
AND YOU SAY NOTHING
HAPPENED!

WELL,
YOU SEE..



GET BACK TO THE
OFFICE WHERE
YOU BELONG,
YOU YOUNG
SCALYWAG!

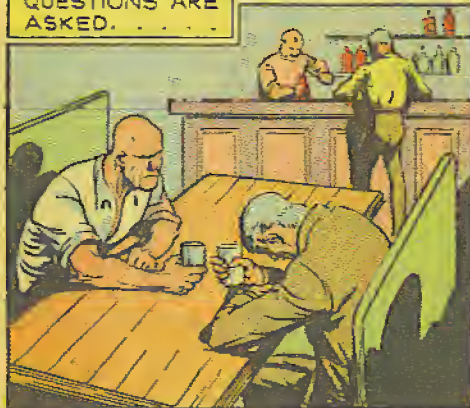
YES, SIR... WATCH
YOUR TEMPER
SIR, REMEMBER
WHAT THE
DOCTOR SAID!



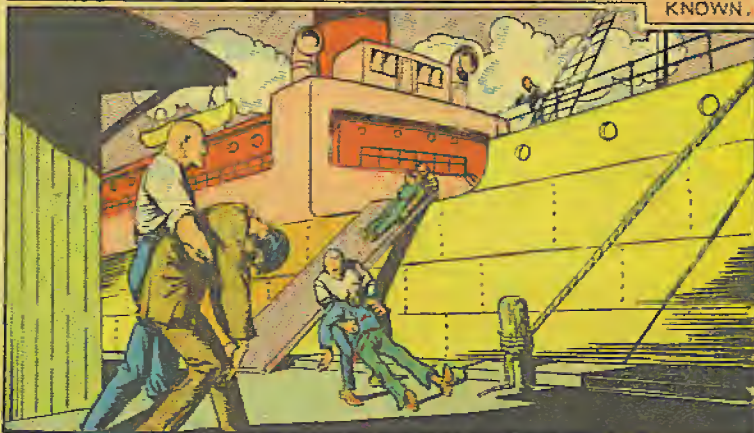
DON'T MISS THE NEXT THRILLING
EPISODE OF THE RED BEE IN
HIT COMICS!



LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND... DOPED DRINKS ARE SERVED AT THE "SHIP-WRECK INN" AND WHEN CUSTOMERS' PASS OUT, NO QUESTIONS ARE ASKED.



IN THE STILL OF THE EARLY DAWN, THE VICTIMS ARE SECRETLY DRAGGED ABOARD A FREIGHTER - SHANGHAIED TO PORTS UNKNOWN.



AFTER A WEEK IN THE HOLD, THEY DOCK AT A SMALL PORT IN MEXICO.



WORK CONTRACTS ARE SIGNED UNDER PRESSURE TO SATISFY THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.



DAYS OF MARCHING OVER SUN-BAKED WASTES BRINGS THE MEN TO THE CITY OF GOLD, ELDORADO.



ROD STRANGE IS MASTER HERE.

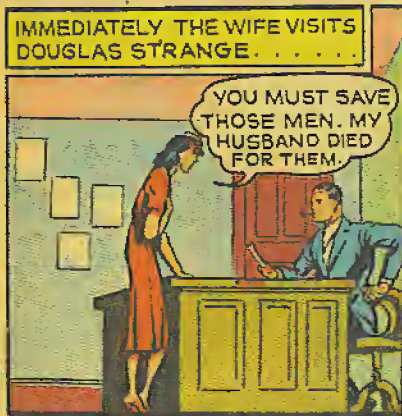
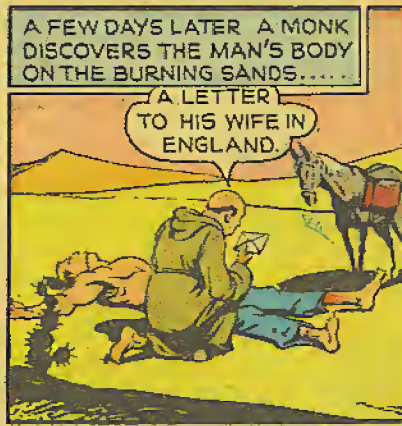
ESCAPE MEANS CERTAIN DEATH IN THE DESERT. SO DON'T TRY IT!

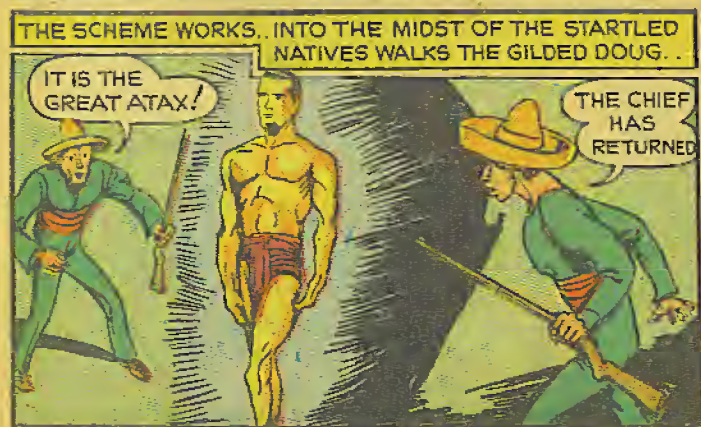
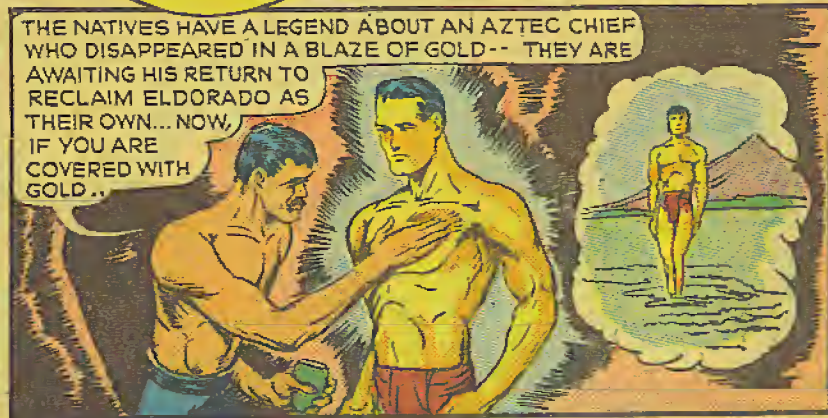


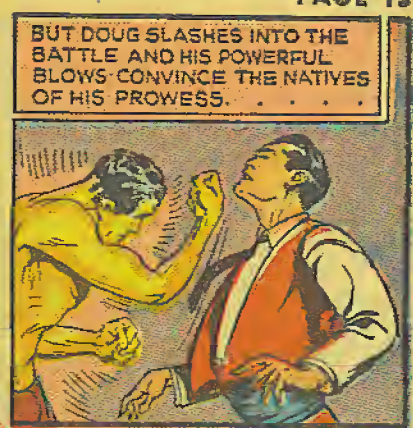
THEY ARE SENT INTO THE MINES...

SLAVES, THAT'S WHAT WE ARE! THE NATIVES AROUND HERE WON'T WORK IN THE "SACRED" CITY!









THE NATIVES RUN TO THE AID OF THEIR REINCARNATED CHIEF



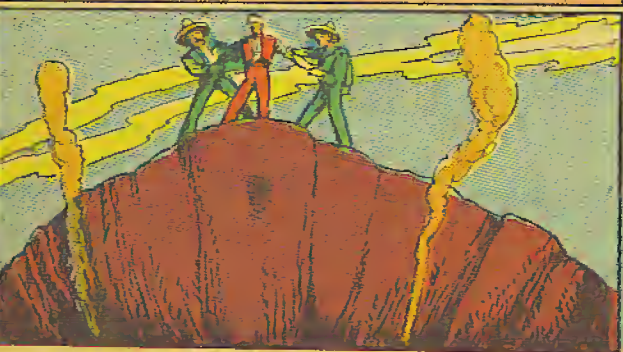
THE NATIVES INSIST ON CARRYING OUT AN
ELABORATE CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE THE
RETURN OF ATAX...

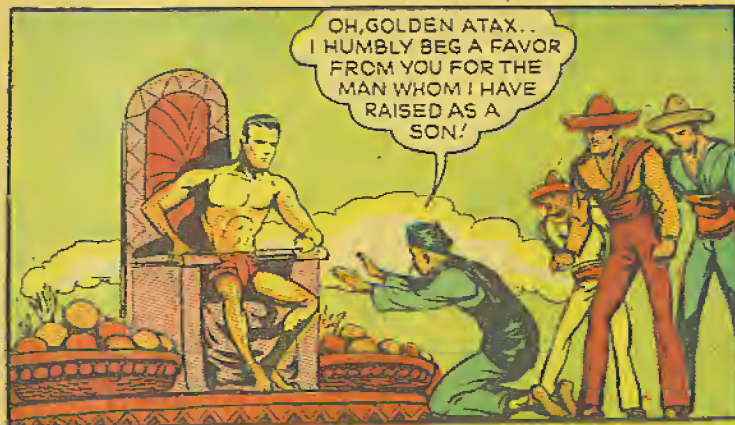


ON THE RIM OF A
VOLCANO HE IS EN-
THRONED FOR THEIR
WORSHIP...



AT THE SAME TIME, ROD IS LED TO THE EDGE OF THE
SMOLDERING PIT... TO BE THROWN BACK TO THE
INFERNAL REGIONS, WHENCE THEY BELIEVE HE CAME.





DOUG REALIZES THAT HE HAS REALLY BECOME THEIR SLAVE AND IS POWERLESS AGAINST THEIR NUMBERS.



BUT AS ROD IS SHOVED OVER THE RIM, WING LOW LEAPS BEFORE HIM, PUSHING HIM BACK AND PLUNGING OVER THE CRATER EDGE HIMSELF...



HE LANDS ON A NARROW LEDGE UNHARMED...

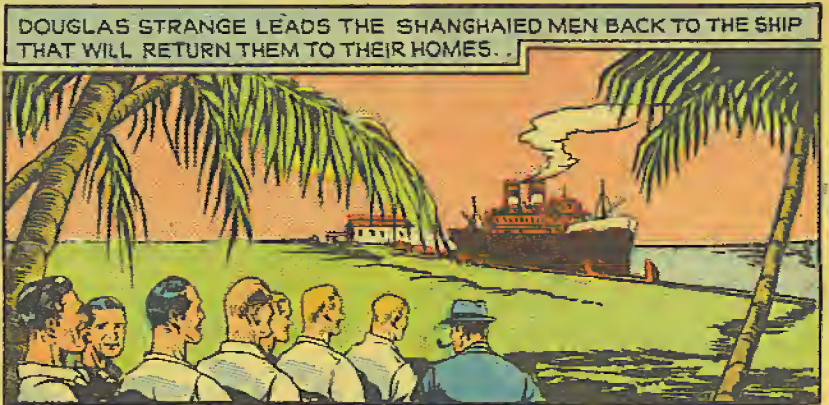
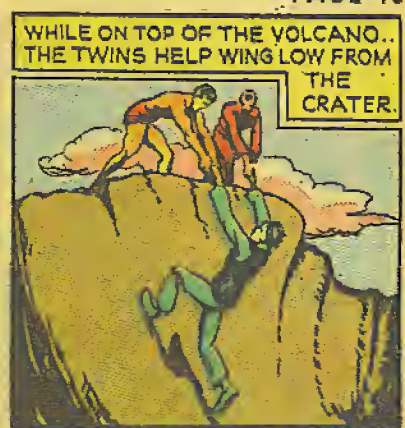


YOU SEE... IT IS AN OMEN! THE AGED ONE WAS NOT HURT IN SAVING YOUR DEVIL, LEAVE HIM TO ME!



WITH ORDERS TO FREE THE SLAVES, THEY FILE DUTIFULLY DOWN THE MOUNTAIN SIDE....







INTO THE BEAUTIFUL LAWYER'S
OFFICE STALK TWO STALWART
THUGS.....



WE GOTTA FRIEND WHO
IS WANTED FOR ROBBING
A BANK/WE WANT
YOU TO CLEAR
HIM!



WHO IS HE?
JIMMY MEKE... HE'S
DE CASHIER OF
DE BANK!



IS HE
INNOCENT?
SURE...JUST
AS INNOCENT
AS ME AND ME
BRUDDER
HERE!



WELL.... WE FIXED THAT/
SHE'LL NEVER WIN DE
CASE AND MEKE'LL
TAKE DE RAP
FER US!

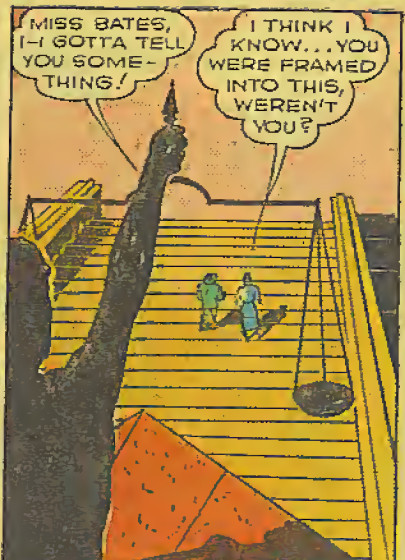


LATER... AT THE BROTHERS'
HIDE OUT....





JIMMY MEKE IS PRONOUNCED NOT GUILTY BY THE JURY. . .

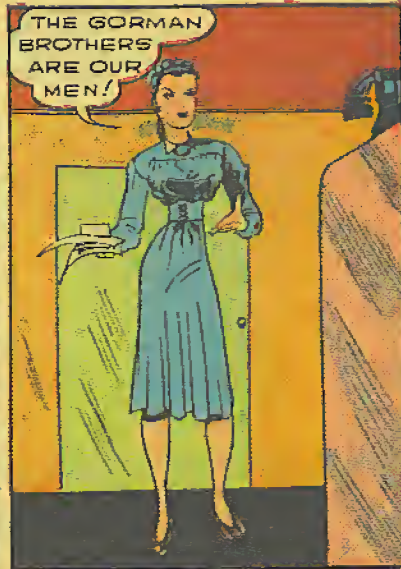


SHE SENDS JIMMY TO THE BROTHERS.



FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS THE TWO BANK ROBBERS ARE TRAILED.







BRAVELY, BETTY RINGS THE BELL



WHILE UPSTAIRS.....



SWIFTLY BETTY MANEUVERS AROUND THE FURNITURE, AS THE CROOKS ADVANCE....



REACH FOR IT, BOYS! YOUR GAME'S UP! NICE WORK, BETTY!



THE YOUNG D.A. LEAPS FROM THE BALCONY!



BUT THE OTHER BROTHER STAGGERS FORWARD...



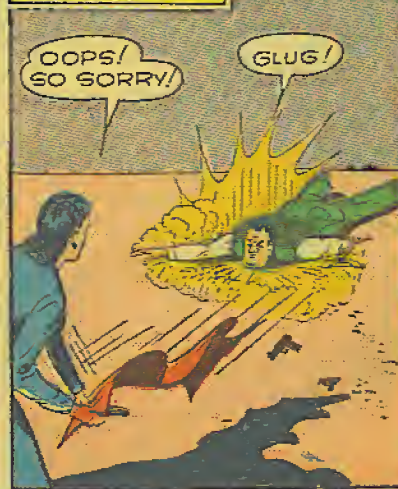
AS BETTY TRIPS HIM, HE MEETS A PILE-DRIVER FIST AND THE LIGHTS GO OUT FOR HIM....



BUT THE SECOND GORMAN DIZZILY COMES TO....



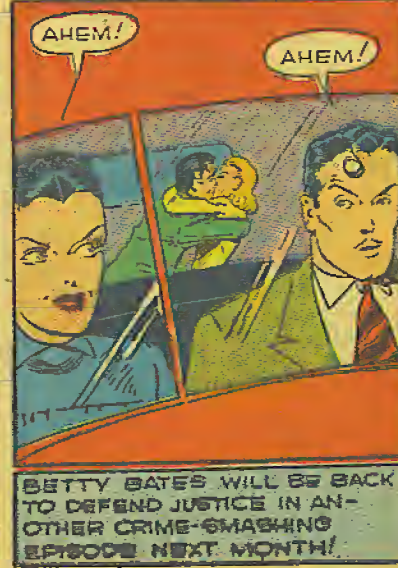
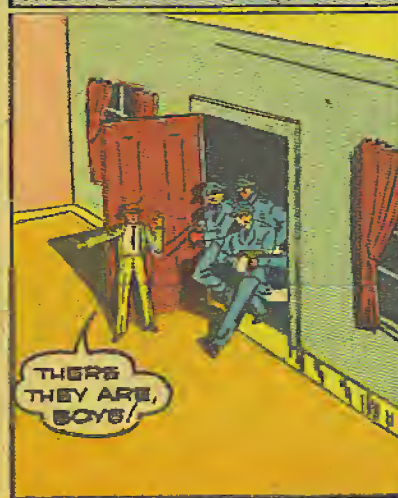
BETTY WHIPS THE RUG FROM UNDER HIM....



THE BROTHERS GORMAN ARE DEAD TO THE WORLD....



AS JIMMY MEKE RETURNS WITH THE POLICE TO PACK THEM OFF TO JAIL....



BOB AND SWAB



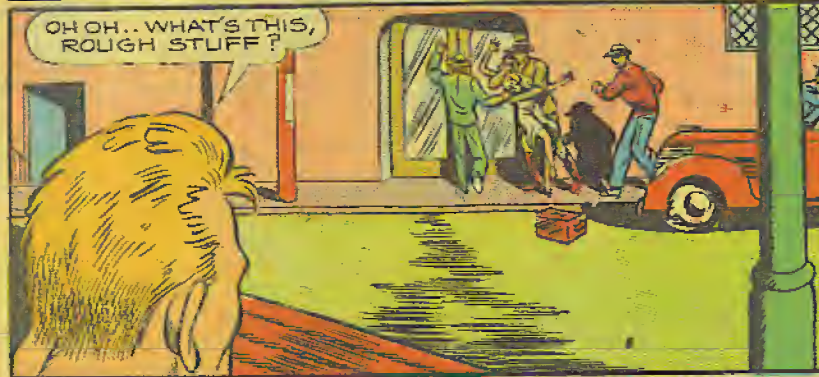
CRUISING IN SOUTH AMERICAN WATERS, THE U.S.S. SCARAB LAYS ANCHOR OFF THE CITY OF PARA . . . THE LIBERTY PARTY GOES ASHORE WHERE WE FIND BOB MASTERS, MARINE, AND SAILOR "SWAB" DECKER . . .

By K. Nordling

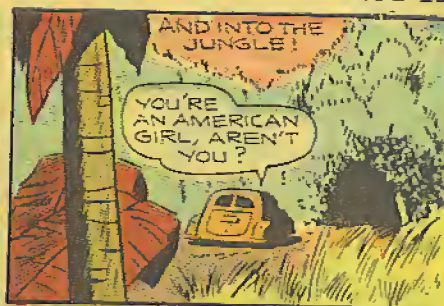
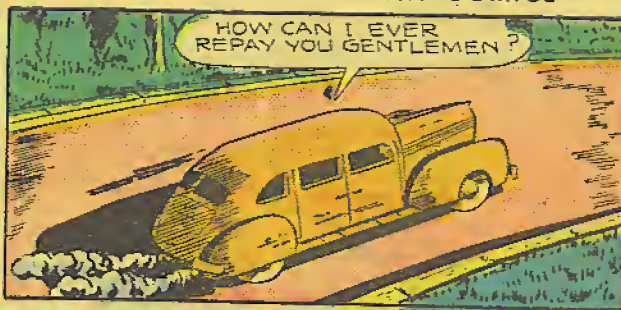




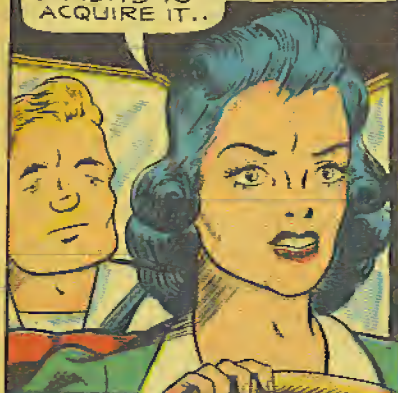
SWAB'S GAZE FALLS UPON A VIOLENT SCENE !



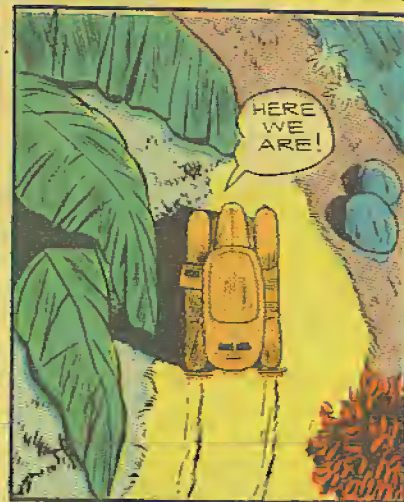
THE TWO MARINERS ENTER THE CAR, WHICH PROMPTLY SPEEDS OUT OF THE CITY!



YES! WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY DAD'S RUBBER PLANTATION BEFORE THEY KILL HIM! YOU SEE, RUBBER BEING SO VALUABLE NOW, DUE TO THE WAR, SOME FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE EVEN EMPLOYING BANDITS TO ACQUIRE IT..



THE FOREMAN ORGANIZED THE FOREIGN WORKERS.. THEY SEIZED THE PLANTATION AND TOOK MY DAD AND MYSELF PRISONERS!

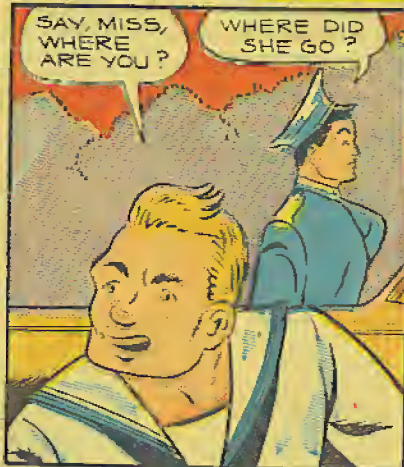


AS THE GIRL STEPS OUT OF THE DRIVER'S SEAT...



SAY, MISS, WHERE ARE YOU?

WHERE DID SHE GO?



HOW DO YOU DO?



SO! THEY HAF CALLED THE NAVY TO THE RESCUE, NICHT WAHR? GOOT! I AM THE FOREMAN.. COME!

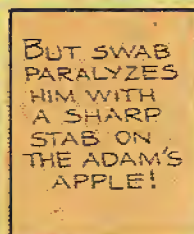
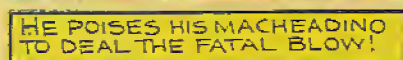
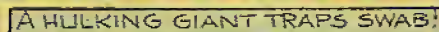
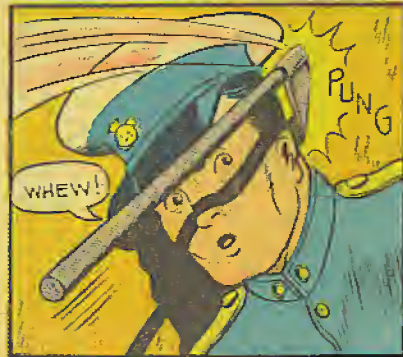


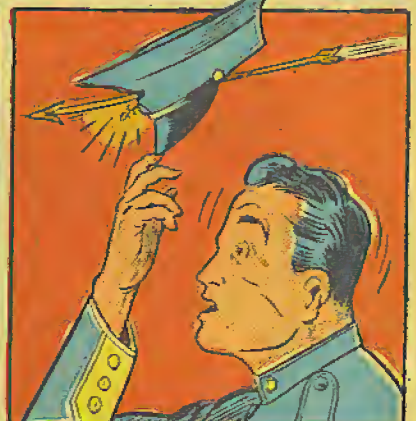
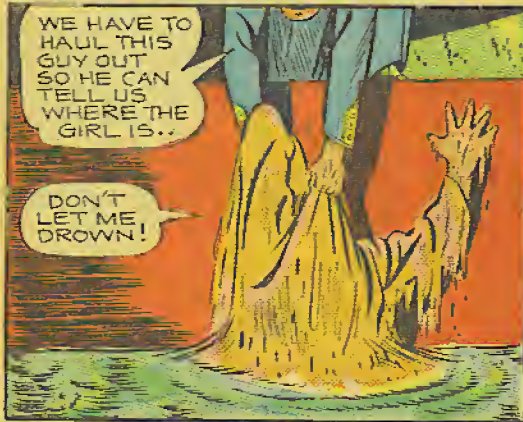
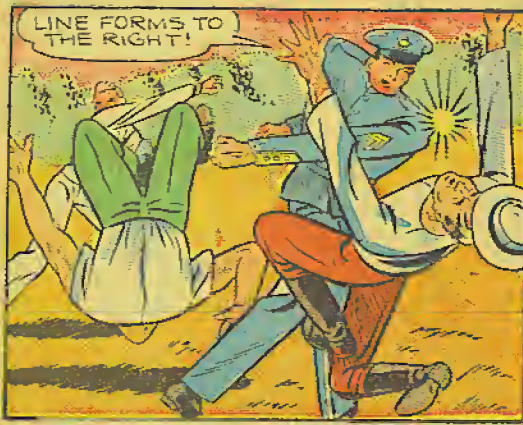
I SHOW YOU AROUND! HEH! THAT ISS HOW VE EXTRACT THE RUBBER MILK FROM THE TREES!

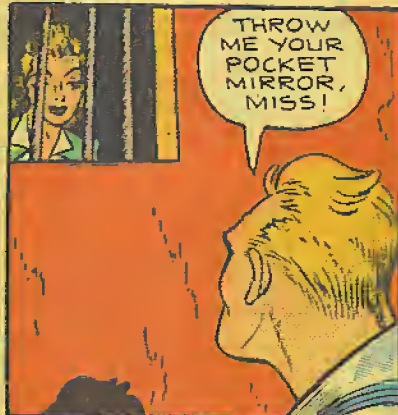


UND HERE ISS THE TANK OF RUBBER MILK, INTO WHICH VE POUR LIME JUICE AS A SEPARATOR... LOOK CLOSE!









AS AN INDIAN CLOSES IN ON THEM, SWAB REFLECTS THE SUN INTO HIS EYES...



THE NATIVE'S HEAD JERKS BACK IN AMAZEMENT! THE ARROW FLIPS HARMLESSLY AWAY!



THE GOB DANCES THE SUN-SPOT AMONG THE NATIVES WHO REACT IN AWE!



THE CRAFTY FOREMAN APPEARS



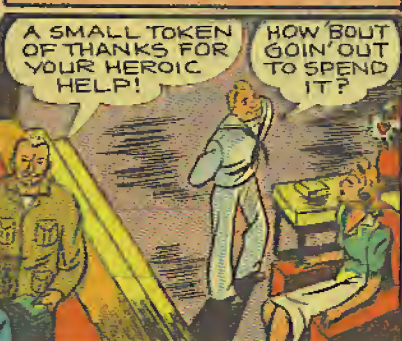
LOOK..HE'S BAD ONE... WANTS TO MAKE SLAVES OF INDIANS!



THE FURIOUS INDIANS MAKE OFF WITH THE ENTIRE FOREIGN GANG!



AND THE AMERICAN RUBBER PLANTER AND HIS DAUGHTER FIND FREEDOM....



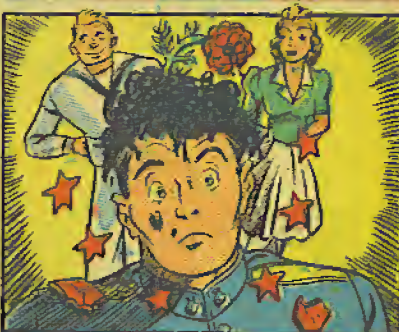
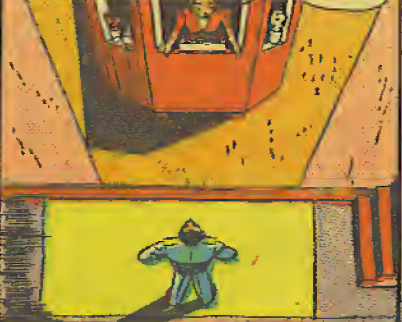
LATER: JUST A MOMENT, WHILE I CALL MY FRIEND OUT!



HELLO..MY HEAD STILL HURTS!



YOU DARE TO COME BACK.. AFTER YOU RUN OUT WEETH SOCH DEESRESPECT! FAH!



MORE EXPLOITS OF BOB AND SWAB IN THE NEXT ISSUE... 6



The OLD WITCH

by Pierre Winter

AS A COLD PENETRATING RAIN SPLASHES DOWN ON THE OLD WITCH'S DISMAL HOUSE, SHE UNFOLDS HER TALE.



FIRST, LET ME STIR UP THE FIRE AGAINST THE DAMPNESSE OF MY HUMBLE HOME!



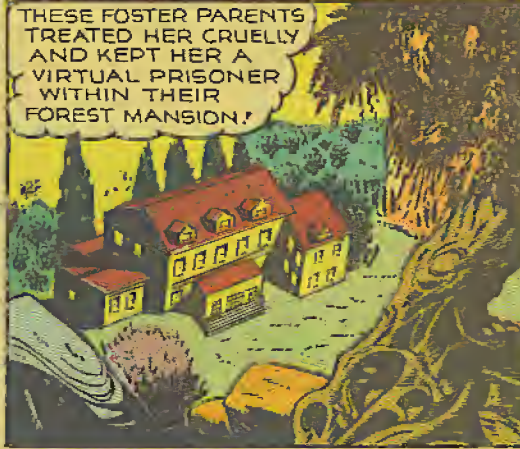
THIS STORY COMES NOT FROM ANCIENT TIMES, NOR THE WITCH HUNTS OF EARLY AMERICA, BUT IS OF THE VERY PRESENT.



A YOUNG GIRL, BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED WAS LEFT AN ORPHAN TO HER AUNT AND UNCLE!



THESE FOSTER PARENTS TREATED HER CRUELLY AND KEPT HER A VIRTUAL PRISONER WITHIN THEIR FOREST MANSION!



ONE NIGHT SHE ATTEMPTS AN ESCAPE, PACKING A BAG, SHE SLIPS DOWN-STAIRS!



AND WALKS THROUGH SILENT HALLS WITHOUT A SOUND...

IF I CAN ONLY GET TO SOME TOWN BEFORE THEY DISCOVER MY ABSENCE!



IT IS HER WICKED UNCLE...



THIS IS ALL VERY SILLY, TONI. YOU KNOW THERE IS NO ESCAPE. IF YOU GO BY THE ROAD, I CAN EASILY OVERTAKE YOU!

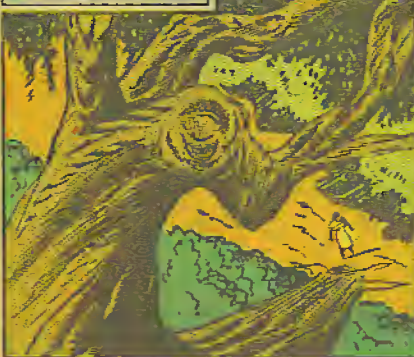


IF YOU CHOOSE THE HAUNTED FOREST ... WELL, NO ONE HAS EVER RETURNED FROM THERE!

BUT TONI WALKS OFF INTO THE FOREST WITHOUT A WORD.



THE TREES BEND MENACINGLY DOWN ABOUT HER AND THE WIND CUTS SHARPLY AT HER SLENDER FORM.



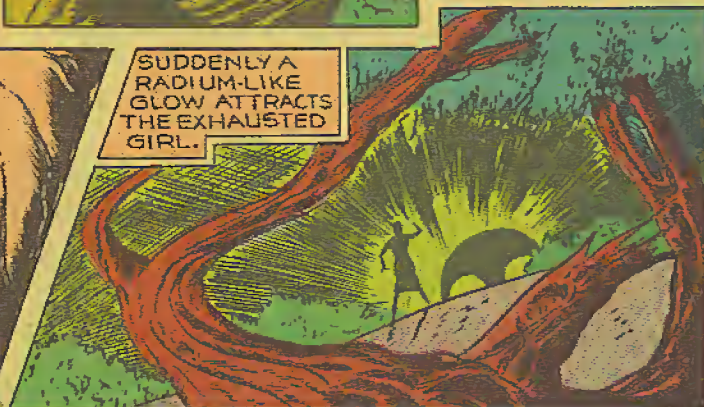
OH! THIS FOREST IS ENDLESS, BUT I PREFER DEATH...



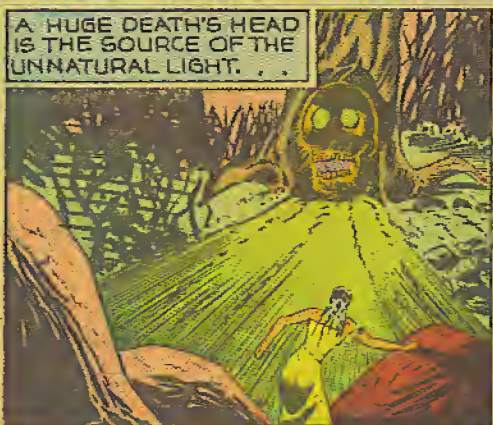
.. RATHER THAN RETURN TO MY UNCLE!



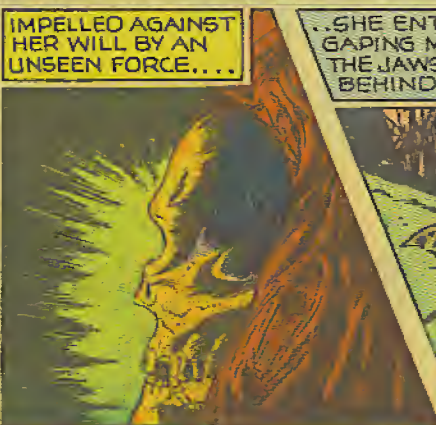
SUDDENLY A RADIUM-LIKE GLOW ATTRACTS THE EXHAUSTED GIRL.



A HUGE DEATH'S HEAD IS THE SOURCE OF THE UNNATURAL LIGHT.



IMPULSED AGAINST HER WILL BY AN UNSEEN FORCE...



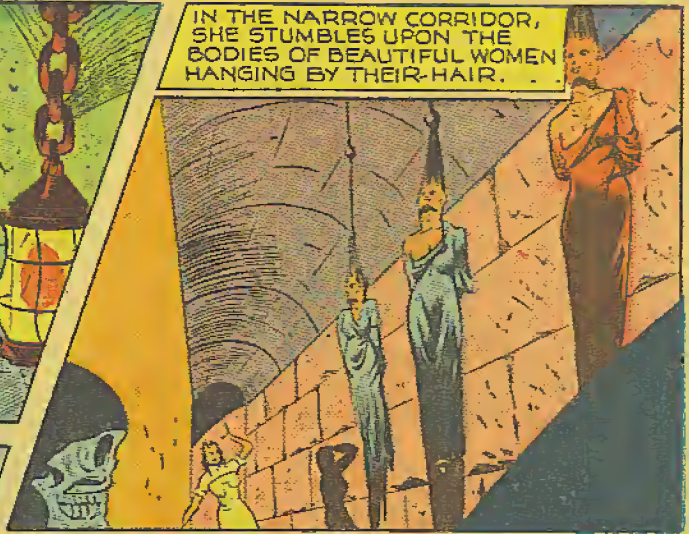
..SHE ENTERS THE GAPING MOUTH AND THE JAWS CLICK SHUT BEHIND HER.





THERE'S A NARROW PASSAGE AHEAD, I MUST SEE WHAT IS DOWN THERE!

IN THE NARROW CORRIDOR, SHE STUMBLES UPON THE BODIES OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN HANGING BY THEIR HAIR.



TRYING DESPERATELY TO KEEP HER SELF CONTROL, SHE HURRIES BY INTO A LARGE ROOM.

THERE, ON A BLOOD-RED DAI, SITS A HUMAN, DRESSED LIKE THE DEVIL.



THERE IS SOMETHING VERY FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM.. CAN IT BE?

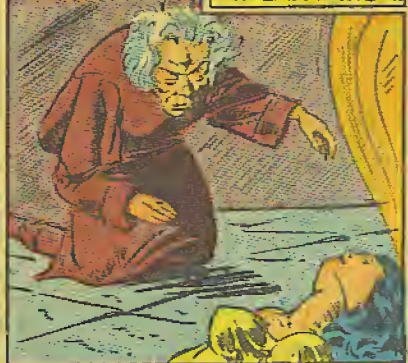


TONI, MY DARLING! YOU'VE COME BACK TO YOUR POOR UNCLE! HEH, HEH, HEH!



HO HO! SHE FAINTS!

A HAG CRAWLS UP TO THE STILL FORM AND MUTTERS AN INCANTATION.



THERE! YOU ARE NOW AN ANIMAL-IN OUR POWER!



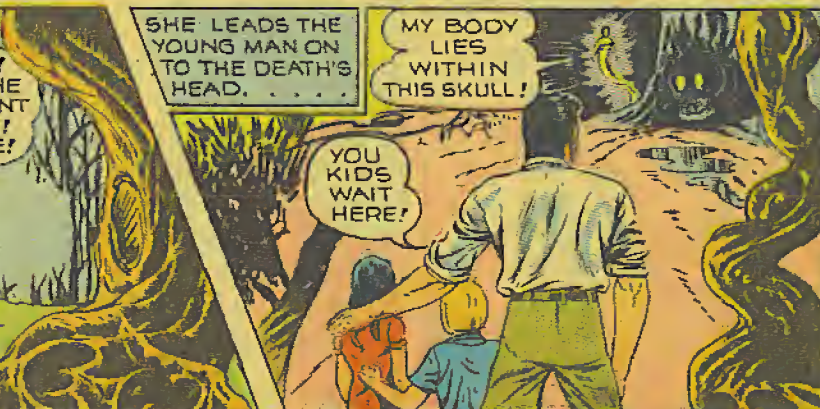
GO FORTH AND KILL FOR US!

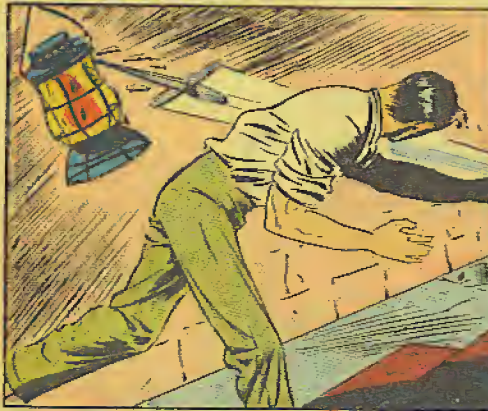


TONI, IN THE FORM OF A PANTHER, IS ABOUT TO POUNCE UPON TWO SMALL CHILDREN, WHEN..



INTO A SPIRIT FORM OF TONI.





SHE MUMBLES THE SPELL-DISSOLVING WORDS...



AND THE WHOLE HORRIBLE STRUCTURE GOES UP IN SMOKE...



FREE AND UNHARMED, THEY STAND ALONE IN THE FOREST.



THE TWO STROLL QUIETLY TO THE EDGE OF THE WOODS.



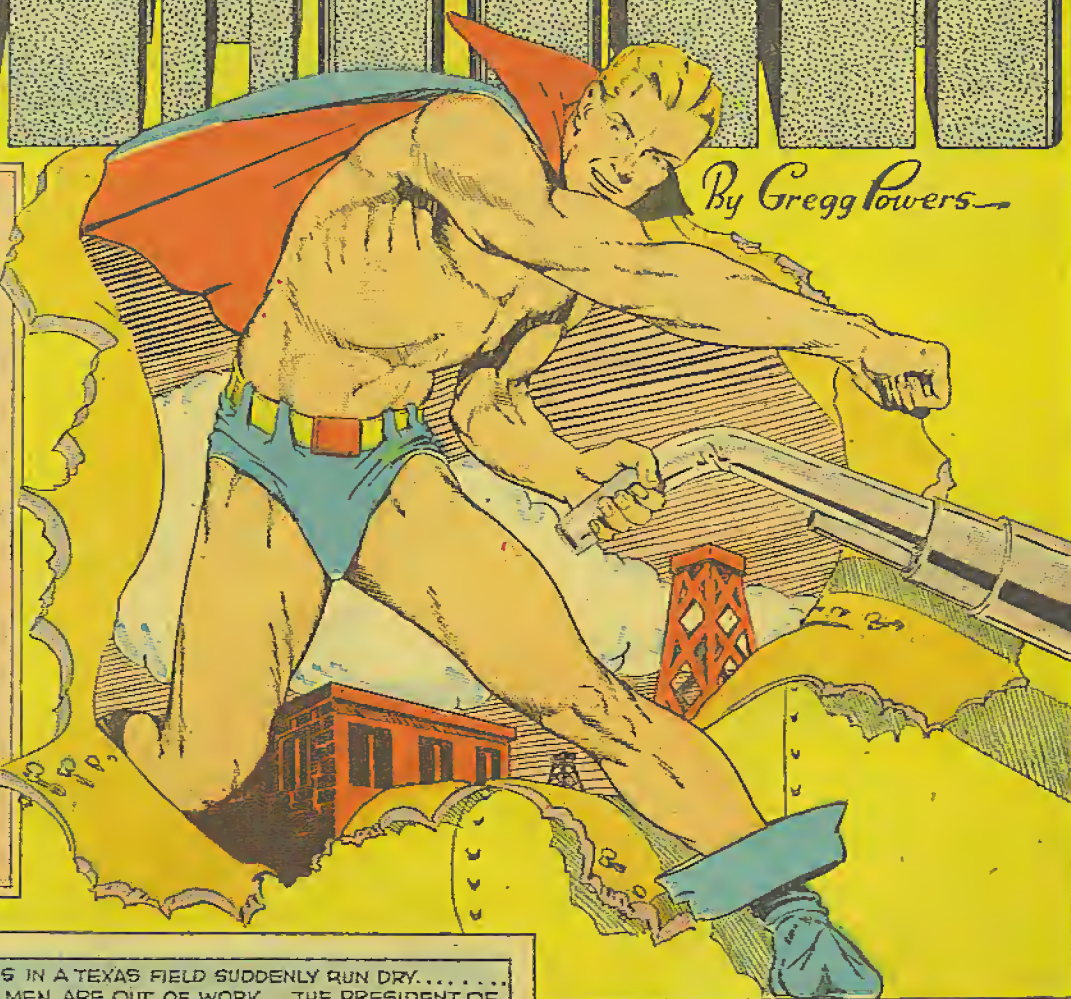
AS THEY APPROACH HER UNCLE'S HOME IT FLARES UP, DESTROYING THE LAST REMNANT OF HER DAYS OF HORROR.



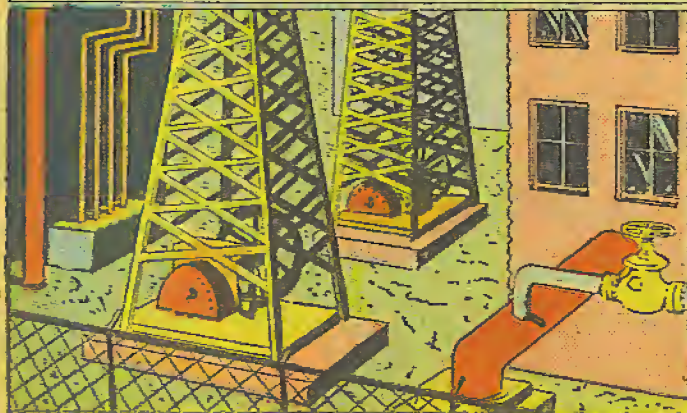
HERCULES

By Gregg Powers

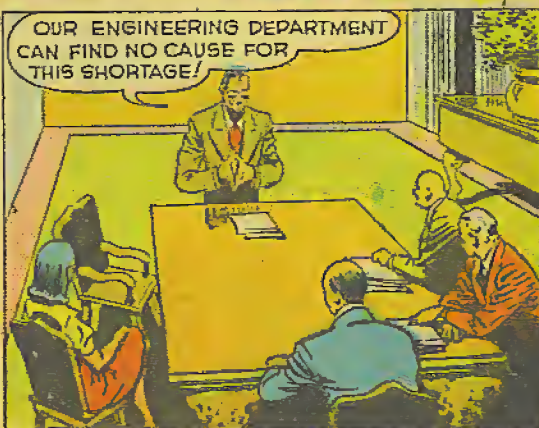
A STARTLING SCHEME TO CRIPPLE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY DIVERTING HER OIL SUPPLY TO A FOREIGN POWER IS SMASHED!!! ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE ALMOST IN-HUMAN STRENGTH OF THE TRUE AMERICAN TERROR OF CRIME.... THE STRONG MAN OF THE PEOPLE.... **HERCULES!**

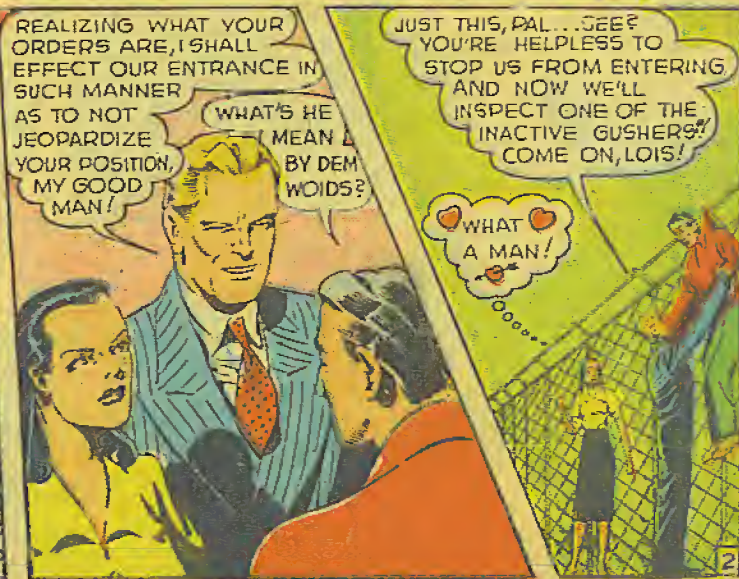
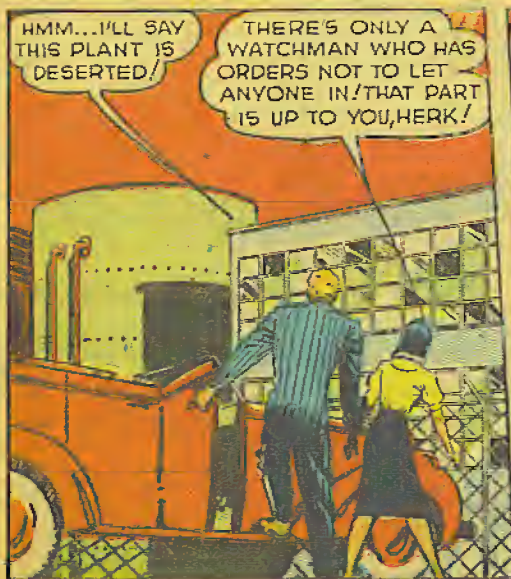
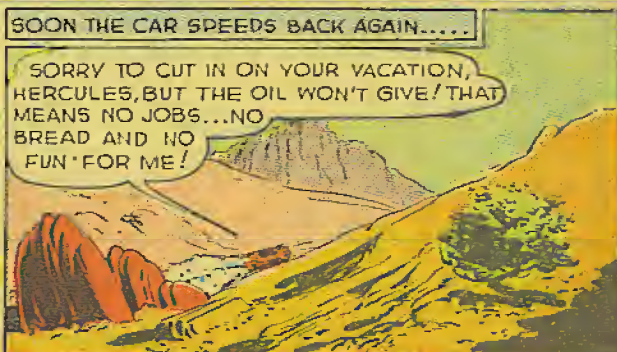
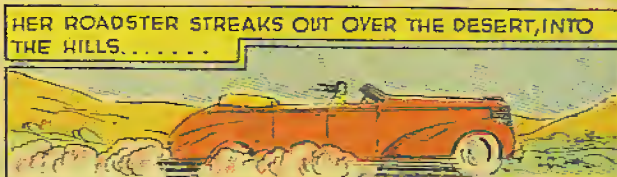


HUGE OIL WELLS IN A TEXAS FIELD SUDDENLY RUN DRY..... THOUSANDS OF MEN ARE OUT OF WORK... THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL OIL COMPANY CALLS AN EMERGENCY MEETING..



OUR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT CAN FIND NO CAUSE FOR THIS SHORTAGE!





HERCULES QUICKLY GETS TO WORK.

WHOA THERE/THOSE HE-MAN MUSCLES ARE COMIN'S THROUGH!
I'LL SOON REMEDY THAT!

DISCARDING HIS SUIT, THE STRONGMAN RESUMES HIS TASK.....

IN A FEW SECONDS THE GIANT STEEL STRUCTURE IS RIPPED BODILY FROM ITS FOUNDATION.....

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED IF YOU HEAR FIREWORKS, MISS NOLAN, I'M GOING DOWN!

... HE RAPIDLY DESCENDS INTO THE DEPTHS....

HELLO/WHAT'S THAT?

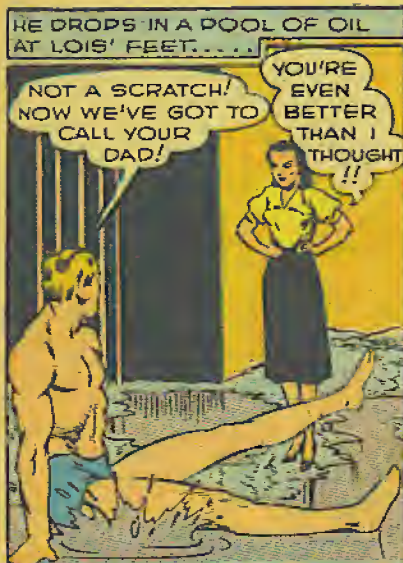
WATERPIPE/AHA! AND CONNECTED TO THE OIL PIPE LINE, ITS PRESSURE DIVERTING THE OIL SUPPLY!

SOON HERCULES CLEARS AWAY THE DIRT, REVEALING A SECRET, HORIZONTAL PIPE LINE.....

WITH AMAZING STRENGTH HE TEARS THE PIPES APART TO FREE THE SUPPLY OF STOLEN OIL.

IT GUSHES UPWARD, OFFERING HIM A VERY SPEEDY EXIT.

THIS WOULD BE A SWELL HIGH DIVE, IF THERE WERE WATER BELOW!



THE SITUATION IS THOROUGHLY EXPLAINED TO MR. NOLAN....

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I'M GOING DOWN INTO ANOTHER WELL. IF I FOLLOW THAT PIPE LINE, IT WILL LEAD ME TO THE OILTHIEVES!

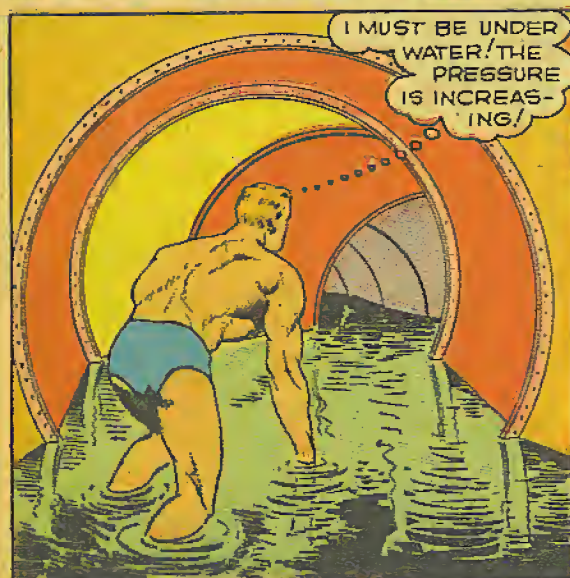
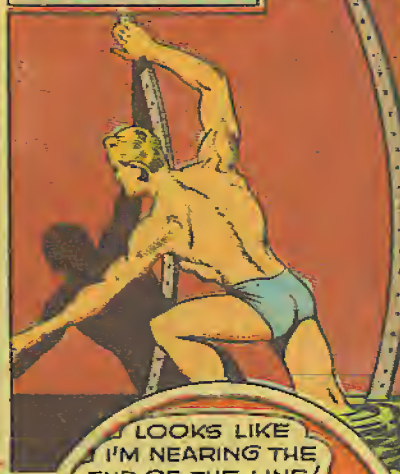
BUT HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?



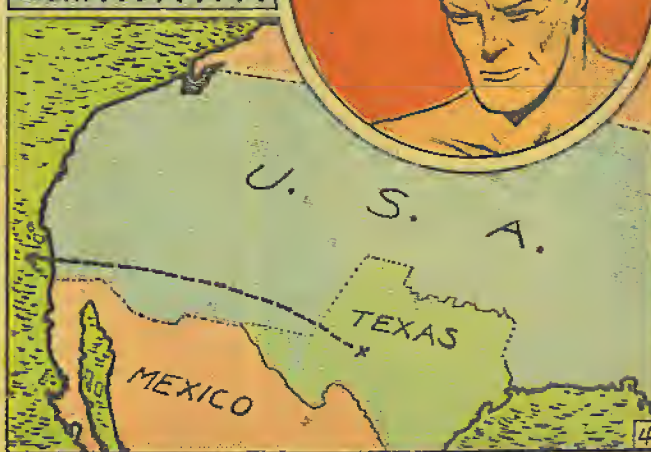
ONCE MORE, HE DESCENDS INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH...



ENTERING A DIVERTED PIPE LINE, HE PROCEEDS TOWARD ITS SOURCE....

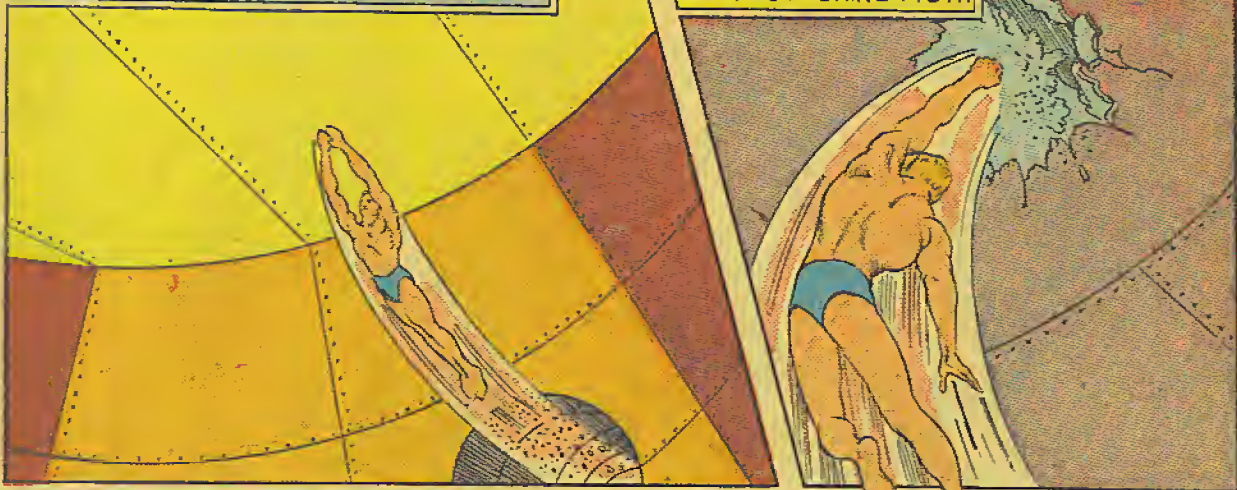


THE MAP BELOW SHOWS THE DIRECTION AND LENGTH OF HIS SUBTERRANEAN TREK....

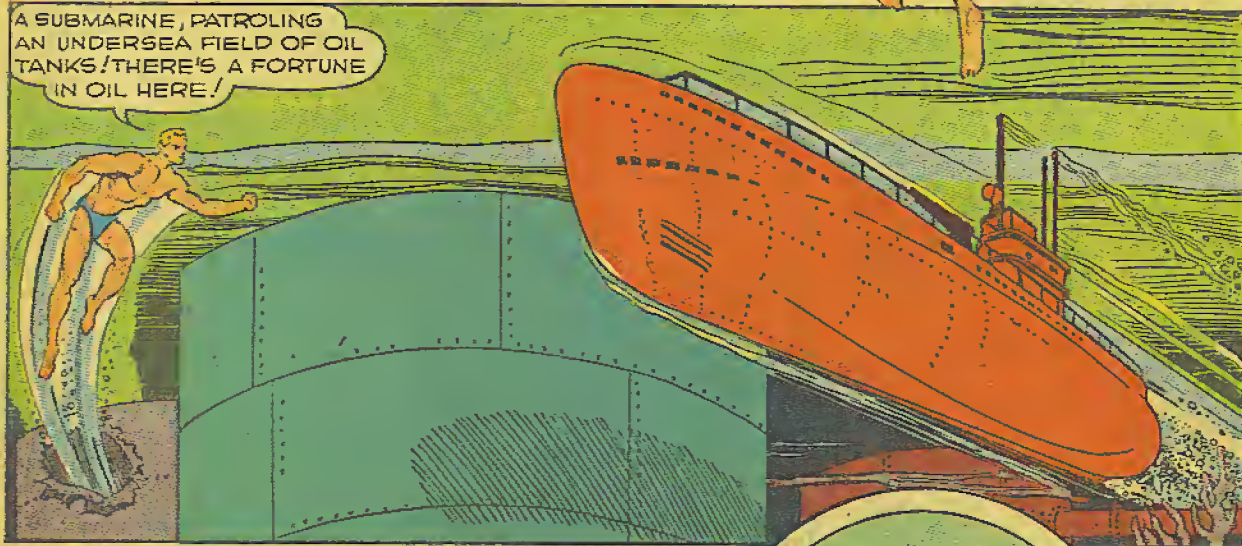


AT LAST THE PIPE LINE ENDS, EMPTYING INTO A HUGE TANK... LIKE A STREAK, HERCULES SHOOTS THROUGH THE HEAVY LIQUID...

THE THICK STEEL GIVES WAY UNDER THE IMPACT OF HIS SMASHING FIST...



A SUBMARINE, PATROLING AN UNDERSEA FIELD OF OIL TANKS! THERE'S A FORTUNE IN OIL HERE!

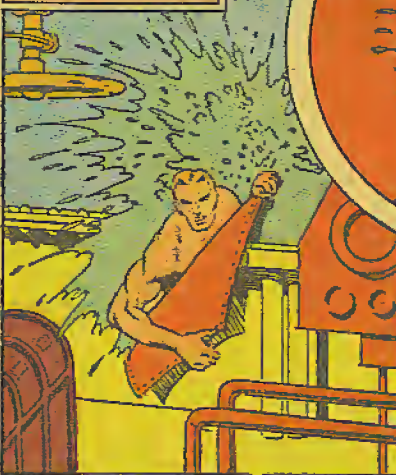


HE HOOKS ON TO THE BOAT...

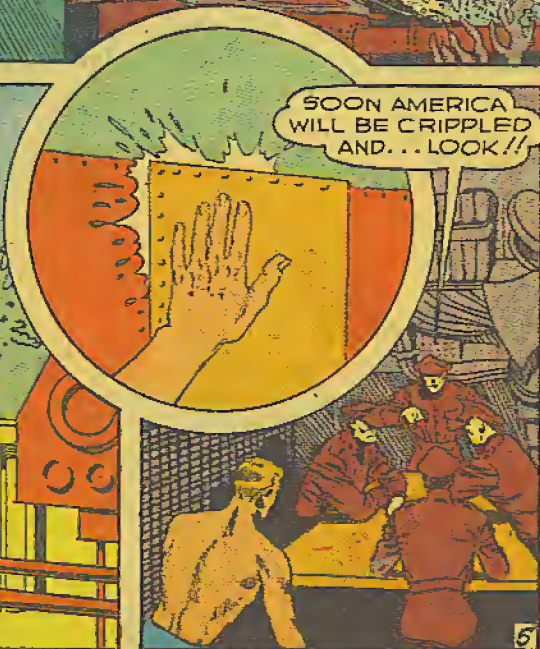
OTHER SUBS, TOO! I'LL HAVE TO SEE WHAT'S IN THIS ONE!



HERCULES RIPS THE STEEL SIDE AND CRASHES INTO THE SUB....



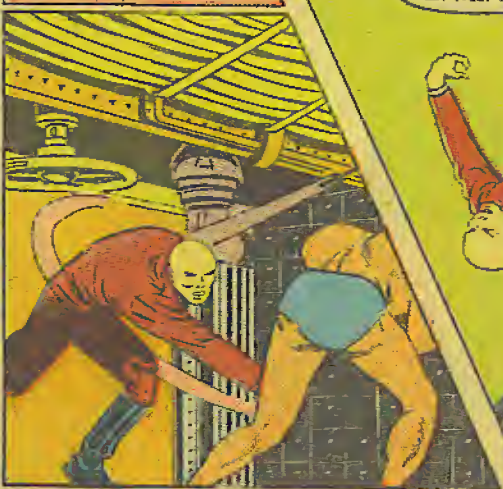
SOON AMERICA WILL BE CRIPPLED AND... LOOK!!



YOU MEAN AMERICA
WOULD HAVE BEEN CRIPPLED,
BUT I'M HERE TO SMASH
YOUR SCHEMES
RIGHT NOW!



A KNIFE SAILS OVER
HERCULES' HEAD...
CLEVERLY, HE DUCKS.



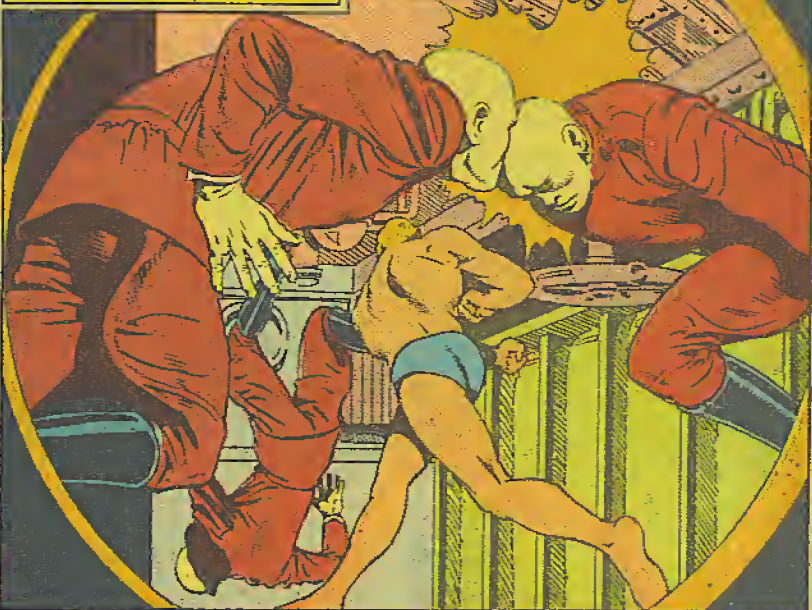
KNIVES DON'T ALWAYS
SETTLE ISSUES, MY
ORIENTAL FOE!



HMM...COMING FROM
THREE SIDES, EH? I'LL TAKE
THE BOZO WHO'S DIRECTLY
BEFORE ME! THIS SHOULD
BE SMOOTH IF
IT WORKS!



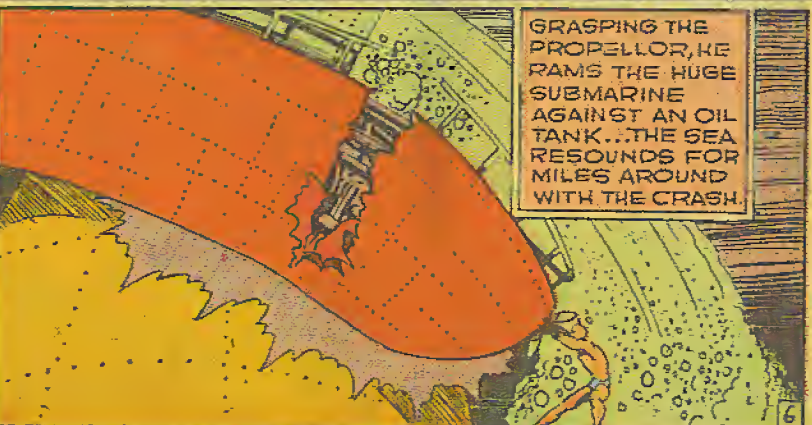
SUDDENLY HE BOLTS OUT OF THE PATH
OF THE TWO MEN WHO WERE ABOUT
TO FLANK HIM, AND.....

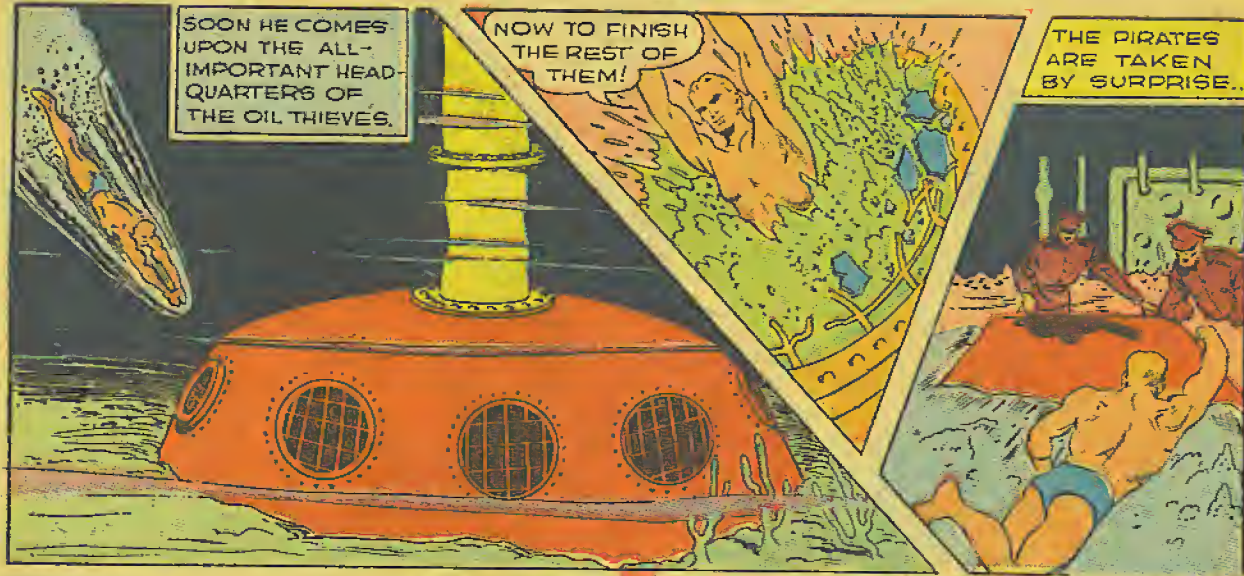


THEN HE SMASHES HIS WAY
OUT OF THE SHIP.....



GRASPING THE
PROPELLOR, HE
RAMS THE HUGE
SUBMARINE
AGAINST AN OIL
TANK...THE SEA
RESONS FOR
MILES AROUND
WITH THE CRASH.





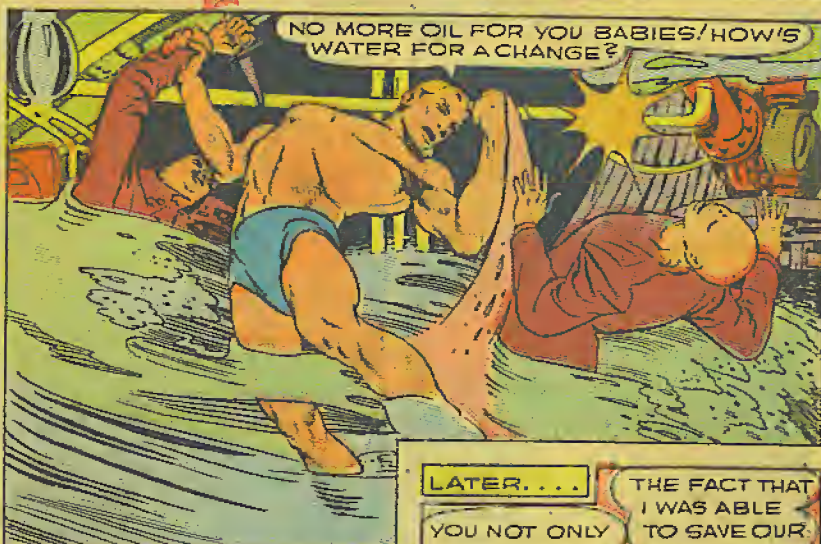
SOON HE COMES UPON THE ALL-IMPORTANT HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE OIL THIEVES.

NOW TO FINISH THE REST OF THEM!

THE PIRATES ARE TAKEN BY SURPRISE.



BARRIERS ARE KNOCKED ASIDE WITH AMAZING EASE..



NO MORE OIL FOR YOU BABIES! HOW'S WATER FOR A CHANGE?



THESE TANKS WILL SERVE AS A STARTER TO GET THINGS MOVING AGAIN!



OVER THE VAST WESTERN STRETCH, HERCULES RETURNS, CARRYING THE OIL AS IF IT WERE A CAN OF BEANS.



LATER....

YOU NOT ONLY SAVED US, BUT THOUSANDS OF MEN WILL GO RIGHT BACK TO WORK. AND THE REWARD IS...

THE FACT THAT I WAS ABLE TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY FROM DESTRUCTION IS ENOUGH REWARD FOR ME!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT THRILLING ADVENTURE OF HERCULES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF HIT COMICS.

BLAZE BARTON

AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

By
Roy Talon

THE PLANET OF VENUS IS THREATENED WITH DESTRUCTION BY THE INHABITANTS OF MERCURY. BLAZE BARTON, ASSISTED BY THE INVENTIONS OF PROF. SOLIS, TURNS THE DISASTER INTO A PEACEFUL END. . .

IN PROF. SOLIS' LABORATORY BLAZE BARTON VIEWS THE MASTER INVENTOR'S LATEST PRODUCT. . .

SO, THIS IS THE GREAT LIGHT AND SOUND-WAVE MACHINE, PROFESSOR?

YES, BLAZE, THIS SOUND WAVE DEVICE CAN TRANSPORT A MAN THROUGH SPACE WITH EXACTLY THE SAME SPEED A SOUND TRAVELS.

ITS FORCE PENETRATES SO DEEP THAT HITHERTO, UNFORSEEN OBJECTS BECOME

VISIBLE..

WATCH CLOSELY!

PROF. SOLIS' LIGHT RAY PENETRATES THROUGH MILES OF SKY, RESTING ON A DEVASTATED AREA.

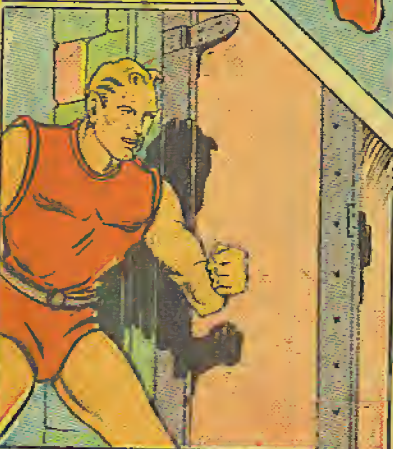
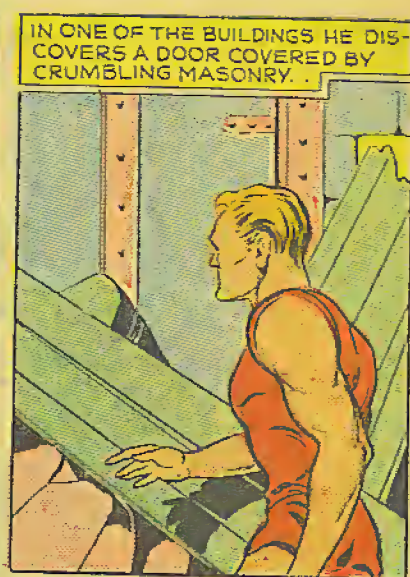
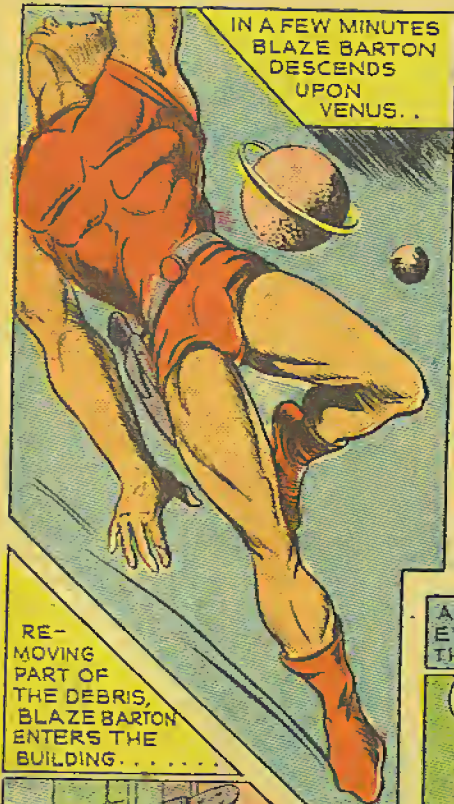
FROM THE READINGS ON THE METER, WE'RE LOOKING AT VENUS, BARTON.

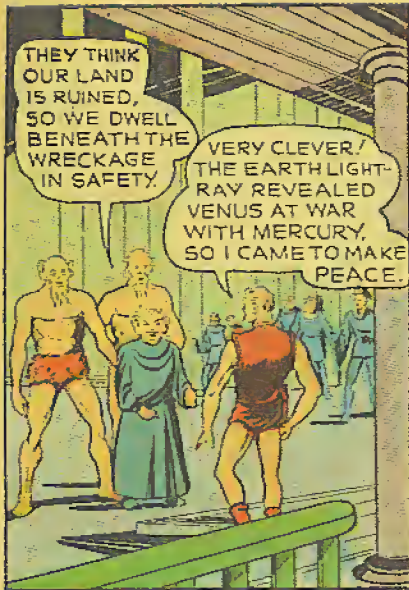
IT LOOKS AS IF THE PLANET'S BEEN DESTROYED BY A FIRE OR WAR.

BLAZE BARTON ENTERS THE SOUND-WAVE MACHINE. . .

I'VE GOT TO GET THERE QUICKLY!

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS WITH THE LIGHT RAY MACHINE, BLAZE.

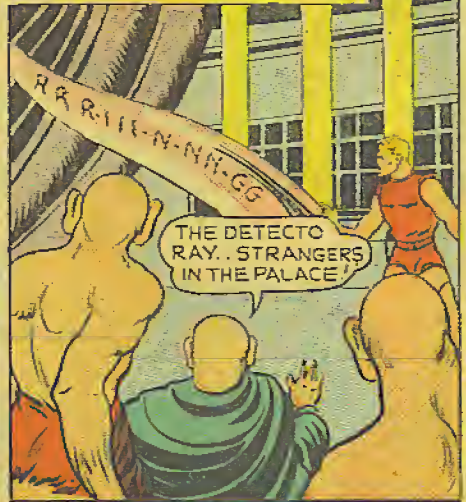




THE PRIEST MISCONSTRUES BLAZE'S OFFER TO HELP.



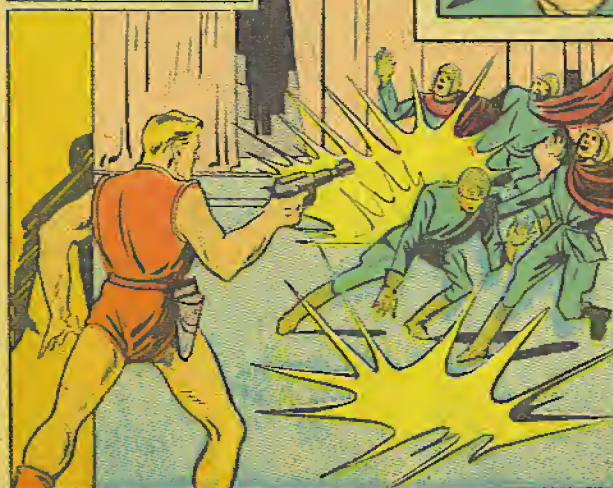
BUT AT THAT MOMENT THE DETECTO RAY SOUNDS AN ALARM...



THE VENUSIANS BECOME PANICKY AS THE MERCURIANS ARRIVE...



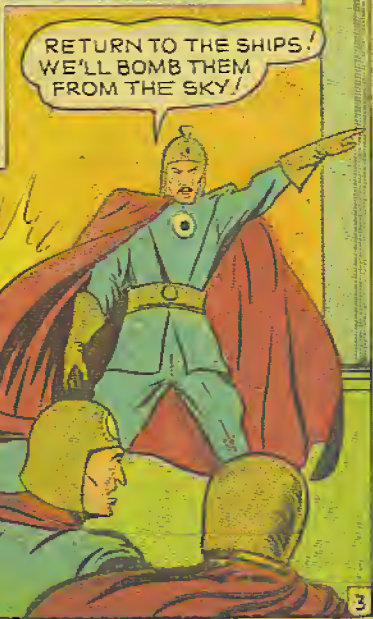
THE MERCURIANS FALL LIKE FLIES UNDER BLAZE'S POWERFUL DEATH RAY FIRE...



A HORDE OF VICIOUS MERCURIANS CHARGES INTO THE UNDERGROUND PALACE.



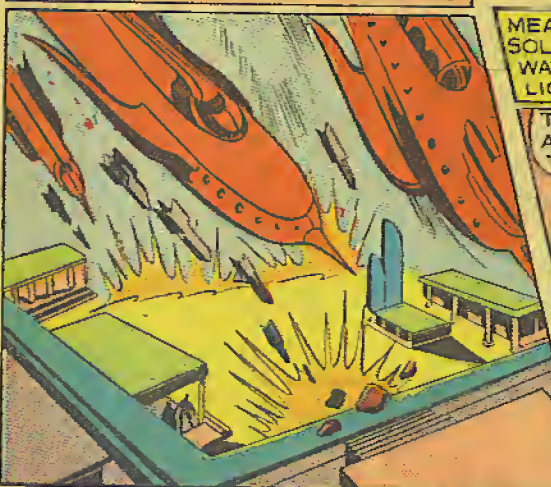
THE ENEMY LEADER ORDERS HIS MEN TO RETREAT.



THE MERCURIANS RUN TO THEIR SPACE SHIPS....



THE SHIPS DIP DOWN AND UNLOAD THEIR NITRO-CAPSULES ON THE CITY.....



MEANWHILE ON EARTH, PROF SOLIS AND HIS DAUGHTER WATCH VENUS THROUGH THE LIGHT-RAY MACHINE.....

THE MERCURIANS ARE BOMBING THE RUINS OF VENUS!



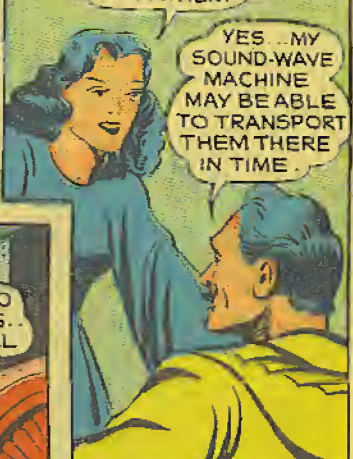
FATHER...DO SOMETHING...BLAZE WILL BE KILLED!

THE MERCURIANS' SPACE SHIPS TURN BACK OVER THE CITY



THEY'RE TURNING BACK! LET'S RUN FOR COVER!

I'LL SUMMON THE EARTHMEN, FATHER!



YES...MY SOUND-WAVE MACHINE MAY BE ABLE TO TRANSPORT THEM THERE IN TIME.

THE EARTHMEN ENTER THE SOUND-WAVE MACHINE TO BE CARRIED TO VENUS....



HURRY, MEN, AS SOON AS YOU GET THERE, ATTACK THE MERCURIAN SHIPS. THAT'S OUR ONLY HOPE FOR SAVING BLAZE!

IN A FEW MINUTES THE RESCUE ARMY DROPS OUT OF THE CLOUDS.....



IN THE SPACE SHIP OF THE MERCURIAN LEADER....



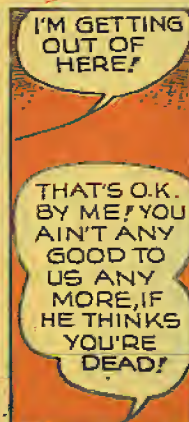
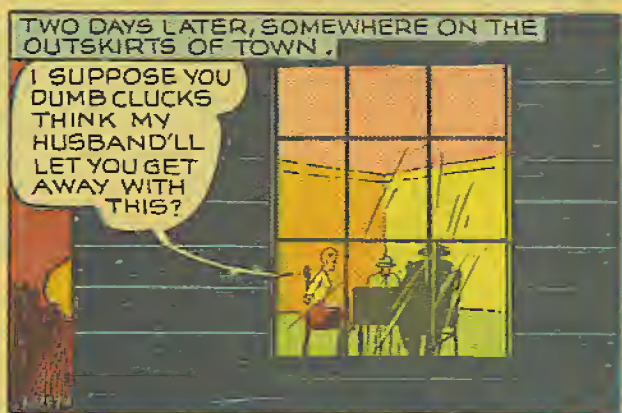
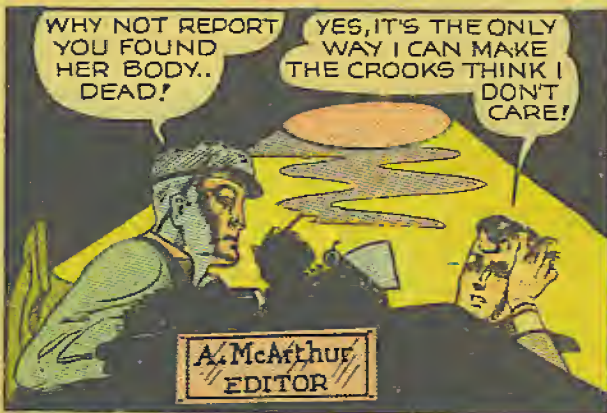
LAND QUICKLY... I'LL CAPTURE THE HIGH PRIEST AND THEY'LL BE FORCED TO STOP FIGHTING!

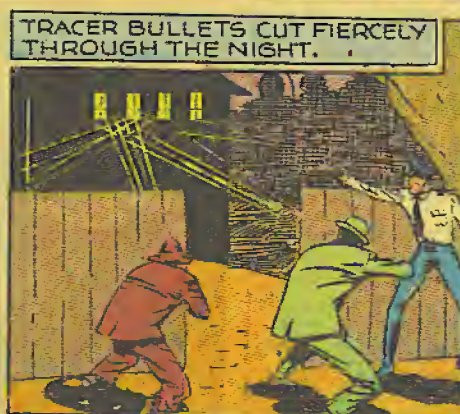
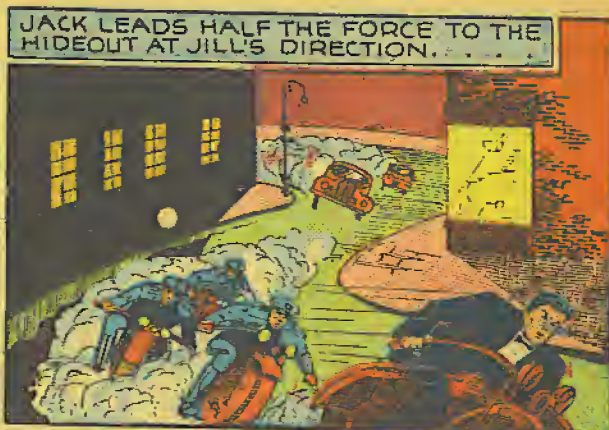
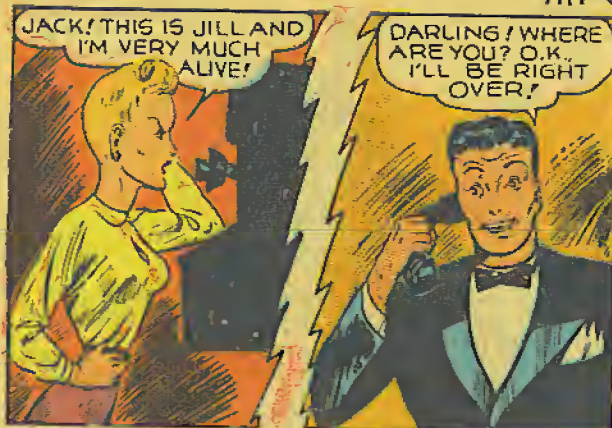
THEY ARE GETTING HELP!



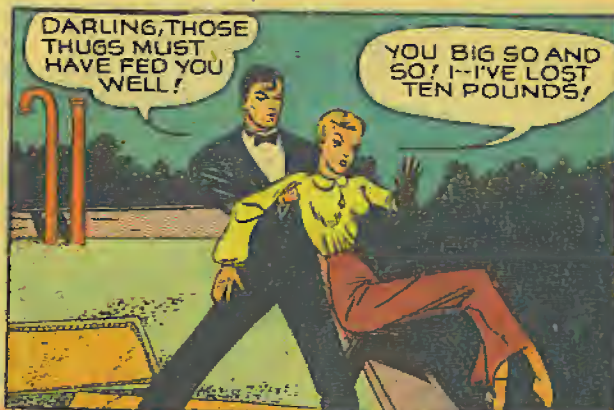








BREAKING OFF A BRANCH, JACK HOOKS ON TO THE ROOF.

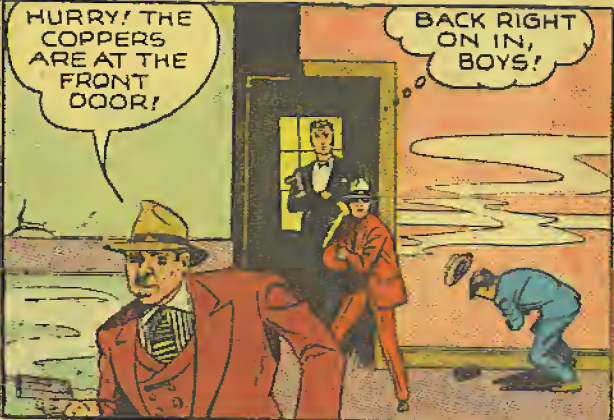


AS THE THUGS BACK INTO THE ROOM...



HURRY! THE COPPERS ARE AT THE FRONT DOOR!

BACK RIGHT ON IN, BOYS!



CLUNK

AS THE POLICE BREAK IN, JACK HOISTS THE FLAG OF PEACE...

O.K., HOLD YOUR FIRE!



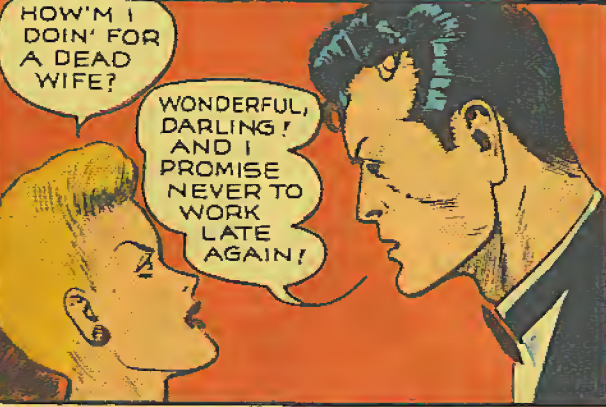
HERE THEY ARE, BOYS!

JACK AND JILL! WHAT TH? DID YOU HANDLE ALL THESE BIRDS YOURSELVES?



HOW'M I DOIN' FOR A DEAD WIFE?

WONDERFUL, DARLING! AND I PROMISE NEVER TO WORK LATE AGAIN!



DARLING!



WHEN THE STORY BREAKS, THE NIGHT CLUB WORLD IS AGOG AT JACK AND JILL'S FEAT...



OH, I LOVE THIS, JACK! THE THRILL OF DANCING IS A RELIEF FROM OUR EVERYDAY LIVING!



IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF HITCOMICS JACK & JILL WILL THRILL YOU AGAIN. ORDER YOUR COPY NOW.



Blood of the Wolf

By TONI BOONE



Heinrich Bruler was found dead in the Black Forest, clawed to death by a pack of hungry wolves. The townspeople shook their heads and told each other that he had come to his deserved end.

But Bruler, the Tamer of wolves had left a son, little blonde-haired Wolheim. Who would look after the child and see that he was not left to starve? The townspeople went indoors and closed their shutters at the thought, for they had all heard the story that Frederick Toller had to tell that wintry night five years ago.

It was to Hans Muecke's beer garden that Frederick bore his tale, to chill the blood and raise the hair of the sturdy citizens. He burst in, his thin face drawn with horror, his blue eyes bulging from the sockets—

"The Wolf Tamer, Heinrich—has made a human beast of his own son!"

They quieted the breathless Frederick with a long draft of beer and waited till he had gained enough strength to continue.

"I saw him—I crept up to the window and saw him—the fiend, the monstrous unnatural father! I heard the boy's cries and slipped into the shadows to see . . .

y—you would have done the same—all of you. There was Heinrich—his face red and angry, and his mouth drawn back—almost like a wolf himself, bending over the child, little Wolheim. He—he had a knife and as I watched he slit the boy's wrist. I—I wanted to call out—to help but just then I saw the other form lying on the floor next to Wolheim, tied to the wall with heavy ropes.

"It—it was a wolf—one of Heinrich's tame wolves!"

A horrified murmur greeted his words and they urged him on.

"Then Heinrich turned to the animal and—cut into its hide. The blood spurted out and spread out across the floor. Heinrich watched it like a man gone mad, and then I heard him shout. His words were terrible to hear. 'I shall raise my son to fight the world—the WORLD! They have pushed us back into the darkness but he shall have the strength and courage of the wild beast. No one shall conquer him!'" Frederick gasped for breath, "and—and then—I watched the whole operation—I could not drag myself away—he filled the veins of the child with the hot, red blood of the wolf!"

After that no one saw Wol-

heim in the village any more. No one knew what had become of him and most were too frightened to investigate the cottage in the forest. Until his father was found torn apart by the wolves.

Then the wolf-child began to make frequent raids of poultry yards and barns. He even found his way into well-stocked pantries and farmers and housewives ran screaming into the center of town to tell of his yellow fangs and the thick shaggy hair that lay in heavy mats on his legs and arms, and of the glaring red eyes and the hideous snarling face of him.

Soon a committee was organized to provide for the roaming beast whom nobody could catch or aim a gun at, "for pity"—they said, but in their hearts they were afraid. Every day meat and bread was laid at the edge of the forest and then no more was seen or heard of Wolheim, the son of the Wolf Tamer.

No more, until ten years later when the men came with brown shirts and guns and shouted important words to the young men of the town and handed them the brown shirts to wear and taught them to use the guns. Then someone remembered the wolf-boy and told the officer about him and they went into the forest and found him. Soon

they had tamed him and taught him to use a gun and wear a brown shirt.

And Wolheim Bruler became a lieutenant in the Reichfuhrer's army that rolled down upon the world like a hell-made machine.

(A French poilu stood at the edge of the charred field that had once grown the wheat of his forefathers and gazed toward the smoking ruins of the peaceful town—the conquerer had just passed through. He ran his fingers through the strong black fur of the dog that whimpered softly beside him.

"They have beaten us this time, Francois, the enemy has taken our land. But it is still the land where we were born, and they cannot hold it long. Remember, Francois, when I found you—in this field, a little ball of black fur you were, alone and shivering—but not afraid. Oh, no, you spoke up when I called you—you barked like a general with your fierce little heart. And when I carried you to the village they all said you were nothing but a mongrel—a little mutt. Perhaps so, I said, but he is brave, he has the heart of a wolf!")

A German troop marched over the burnt field where the Frenchman had tilled the soil for many centuries and Wolheim Bruler was at their head. Even the stolid men in his ranks were uneasy when they looked at the untamed giant who had led them into victory—but he was a savage fighter and had brought them into the heart of the enemy land and that was all that mattered.

"Company, halt!"

No one voiced a question but puzzled eyes turned toward Wol-

heim who stood stiffly—alert to an unseen danger.

Why stop in the center of this barren field—there was no enemy—the French had fled?

(The French poilu felt the dog's hair bristle beneath his touch and a low, angry growl guttered up his throat. "What is it, Francois? What do you see—the Nazi's? But there is nothing you and I can do, now." But the black, mongrel dog barked a challenging answer to his master and raced from the fingers that would hold him back, scurrying like a small thunder cloud across the open field.)

Wolheim's teeth were bared as he watched the furious dog advance. He had dropped his gun and stood with hands out-stretched. His muscles tightened and he trembled from head to foot. In stunned silence, the halted army watched.

For one moment two snarling beasts faced each other, quivering for the kill. The black dog leaped and sank his teeth into the swelling throat of Wolheim Bruler—the wolf-boy. The black dog clung to the bloody flesh and would not let go.

Wolheim ripped handfuls of fur from the clinging animal's hide but he could not pull free. One of his men took steady aim but a shot from behind a shrub rang out and the gunner fell dead.

No one ran to find the sniper for their leader lay dead—the black dog had streaked back across the field into the deep forest and the son of the Tamer of Wolves lay still and cold in a pool of hot, red blood, that spread out across the black earth and seeped into the soil.

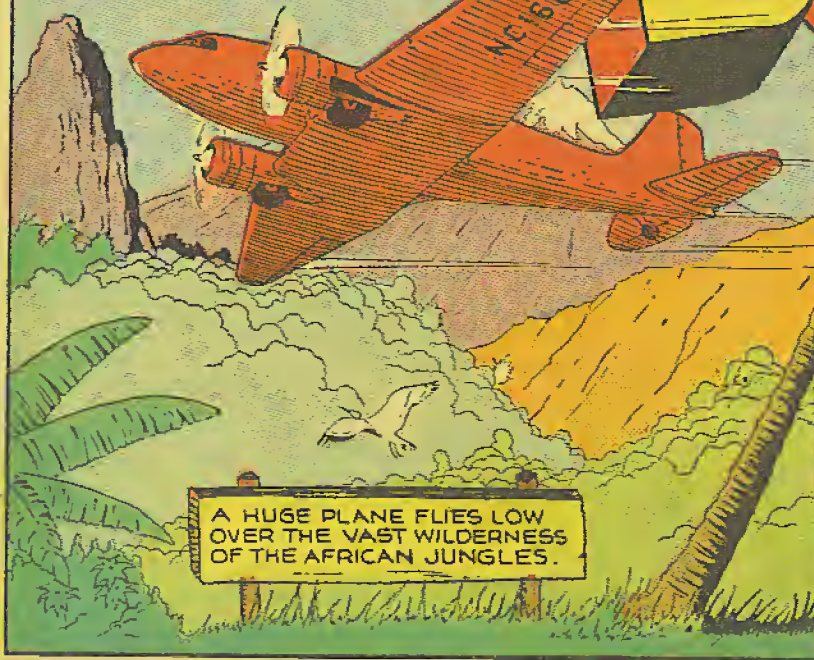
THE END



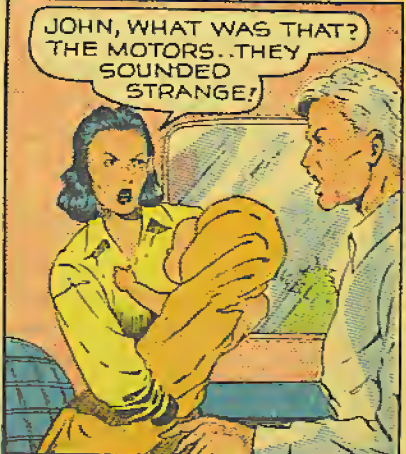
Introducing LION BOY

by
Merton
Holmes

**SENSATIONAL!
NEW!!
ADVENTURE!!!**



INSIDE, A PLANTATION OWNER, HIS WIFE AND CHILD, ARE SUDDENLY ALARMED.



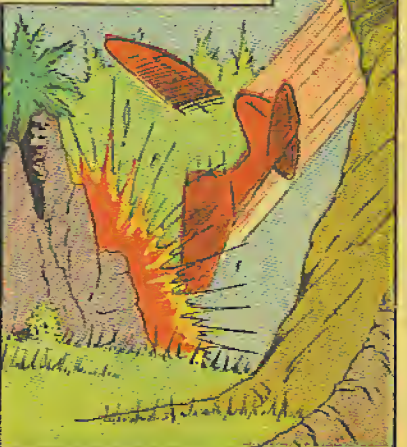
MOTOR'S STALLED... BRACE YOURSELF FOR A FORCED LANDING! I'LL DO MY BEST TO BRING HER DOWN EASY!



BUT THE CHANCES ARE SLIM... SILENTLY, JOHN BIDS HIS WIFE AND CHILD FAREWELL.



IT IS OVER IN A FEW MINUTES, AS THE DOOMED PLANE CRASHES IN THE HEART OF THE STEAMING JUNGLE.



A LIONESS AND HER CUB
COME TO INVESTIGATE...



WHEN SUDDENLY, A BABY
CREEPS FROM THE WRECK-
AGE...THE SOLE SURVIVOR...



THE MOTHER LIONESS SEES
THAT THE LITTLE WHITE
ANIMAL IS ALONE AND
HELPLESS...



SHE ADOPTS THE LOST CHILD
AND CARRIES IT HOME TO
HER PACK.



THE BOY AND A TAWNY CUB
BECOME GOOD FRIENDS..
JUNGLE BROTHERS.



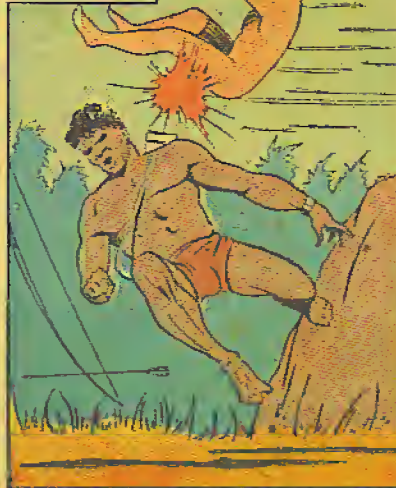
THEY GROW TOGETHER, AS
THEY ROMP IN THE SUN OF
THEIR WILDERNESS
PLAYGROUND...



ONE DAY LION BOY SEES A
STRANGE BLACK ONE..HE
SENSES TROUBLE...



AND LEAPS,
KICKING
FIERCELY.



FOR AWHILE HE STANDS IN
PUZZLED AWE, WATCHING THE
FLEEING BLACK.....



BUT JUNGLE PALS CAN MAKE A BOY
EASILY FORGET HIS PROBLEMS.



MORE YEARS
PASS AND THE
BOY, ADOPTED
SON OF THE
LIONESS, GROWS
STRONG AND
STURDY UNDER
THE TROPIC
SUN.



ONE DAY HE RETURNS TO A
LONG-FORGOTTEN SPOT.



HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT
THIS IS..THE RUSTY PLANE
THAT BROUGHT HIM HERE..



BUT HE CAN FIND GOOD USE
FOR PIECES OF METAL THAT
HE FINDS ABOUT.



HE FASHIONS A SHARP
BLADE..FOR JUNGLE BEASTS
ARE LARGE AND STRONG,
AND A SMALL BOY MUST BE
READY TO DEFEND HIMSELF.



SUDDENLY, THE ROARS OF A
BATTLE ARE HEARD.



LION BOY LEAPS FROM
LIMB TO LIMB.



THE LEADER OF THE PACK
LIES DEAD..CONQUERED BY
A YOUNG, AMBITIOUS MALE.



THE NEW LEADER ROARS
COMMANDS TO LION BOY'S
MOTHER LION, BUT SHE DOES
NOT WANT TO OBEY.



WITH A DEAFENING ROAR,
THE CRUEL ONE THREATENS
TO KILL HER.



BUT LION BOY WILL NOT LET
HARM COME TO ONE WHO
HAS FED AND SHELTERED
HIM.



NOT THINKING OF HOW
STRONG THE BEAST IS,
LION BOY JUMPS...



AND RAISING HIS
NEW KNIFE...



HE PLUNGES IT INTO THE
SHAGGY MANE.



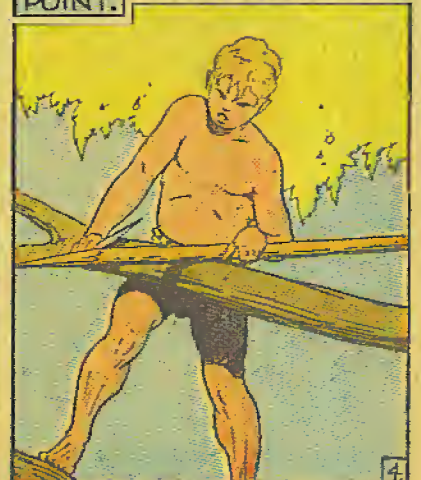
BUT HE ONLY WOUNDS THE
LION. ENRAGED, IT THROWS
HIM OFF AND LUNGES FOR
THE KILL.



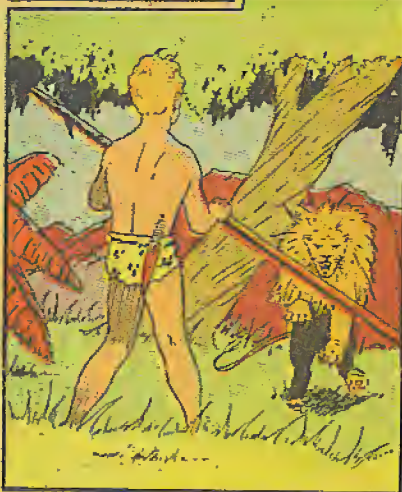
LION BOY LEAPS TO A VINE
AND SWINGS UPWARD....



IN THE BRANCHES, HE CUTS
A STRONG SPEAR AND
WHITTLES IT TO A SHARP
POINT.



ONCE MORE THE BRAVE BOY OF THE JUNGLE FACES THE RAGING BEAST.



HE BRACES HIS SPEAR AS THE LION SPRINGS.



AND THE TYRANT FALLS DEAD, PIERCED THROUGH THE HEART.



LION BOY HAS KILLED THE LEADER... HIS MOTHER LION AND ALL THE PACK HAIL HIM AS THE NEW KING.



BUT MORE EXCITEMENT IS WAITING IN THE TREETOPS FOR THE LION BOY, KING OF THE BEASTS.



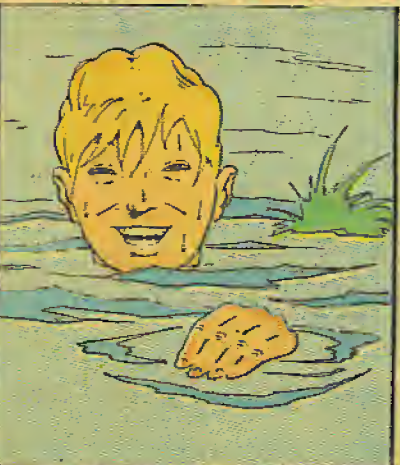
ONE DAY WHILE LEAPING FOR A LIMB, HE MISSES AND FALLS HEADLONG INTO A POOL.



AT FIRST HE SINKS BENEATH THE WATER, SPLUTTERING AND CHOKING.



BUT IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE HE LEARNS TO STAY AFLOAT AND SWIM... ALL AFTERNOON HE PLAYS HIS NEW GAME.



UNTIL... A DANGEROUS WATER COMPANION APPEARS BEFORE HIM WITH CAVERNOUS JAW AND NEEDLE-SHARP TEETH.



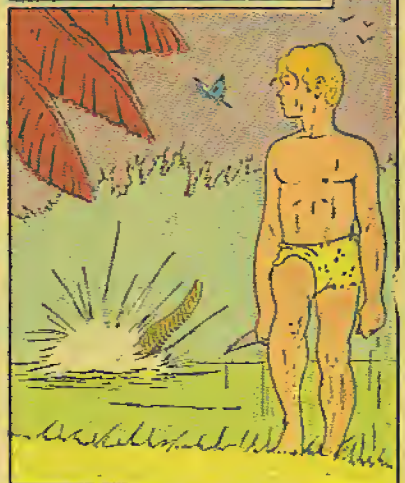
LION BOY DIVES UNDER, BUT THE CROCODILE CAN PLAY THIS GAME ALSO.



ONCE MORE LION BOY'S TRUSTY KNIFE COMES TO HIS AID AS HE BRAVELY ATTACKS THE GAPING ANIMAL.



LION BOY LEAVES THE POOL AS THE CROCODILE LASHES WILDLY TO ITS DEATH.



THERE ARE MOMENTS OF REST FOR THE BUSY LION BOY.



BUT THEY DO NOT LAST LONG, FOR THE JUNGLE'S HUNGRY BEASTS ARE ALWAYS LURKING.



BEFORE LION BOY CAN MOVE, THE BLACK FIGURE LEAPS...



BUT THE BROTHER LION, WHO GREW UP WITH THE BOY, SPRINGS FROM THE BUSHES TO THE RESCUE.



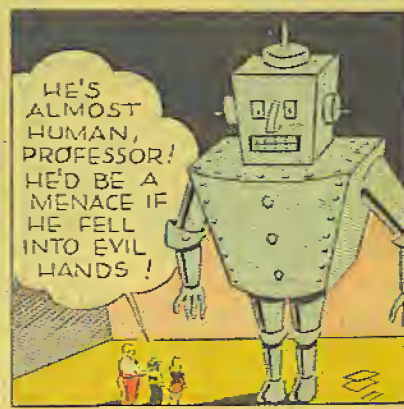
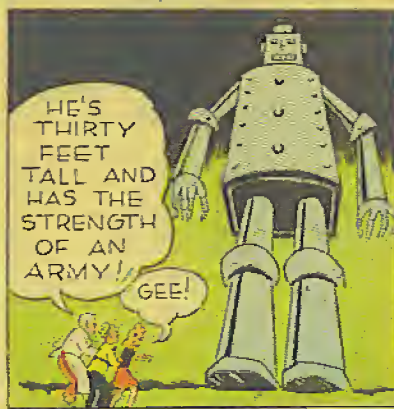
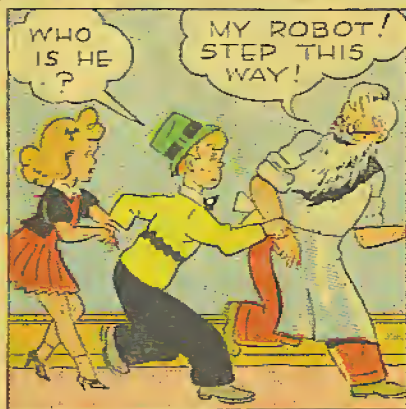
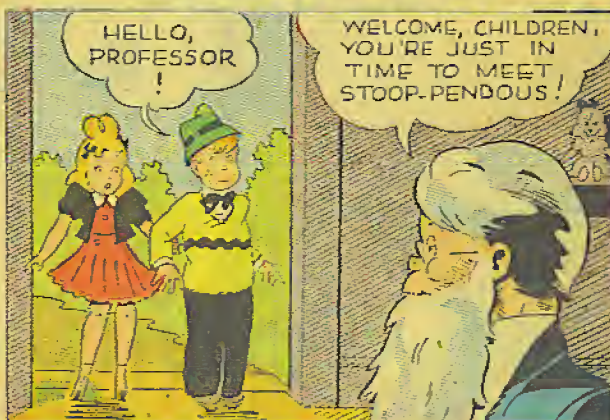
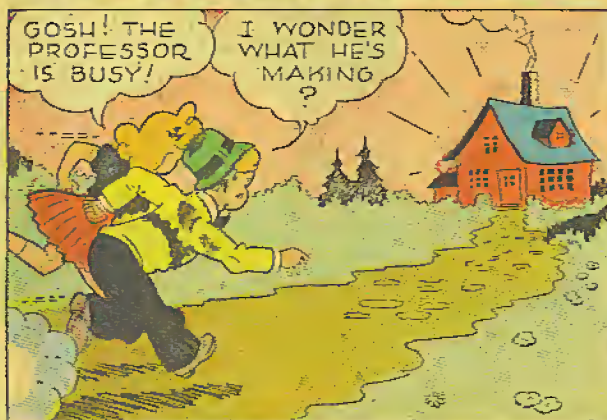
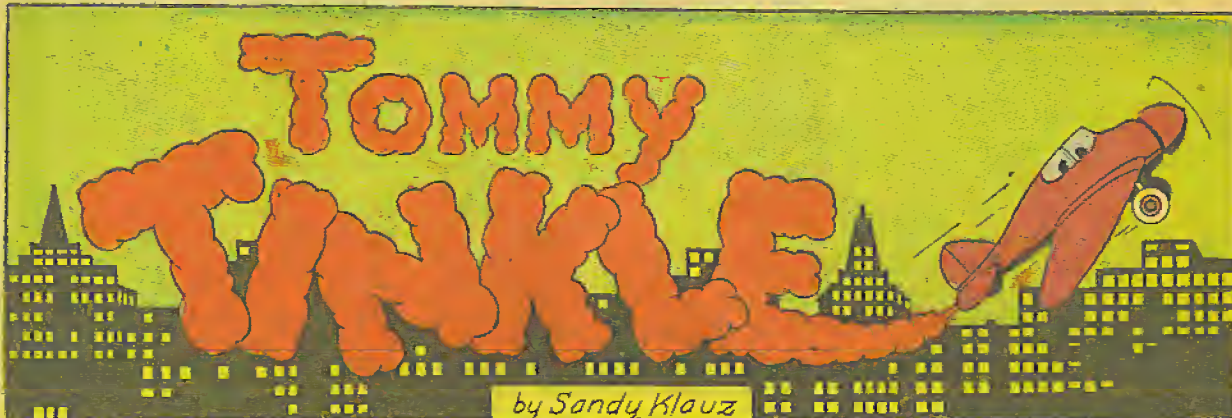
AND SOON THE PANTHER LIES DEAD AT HIS FEET.



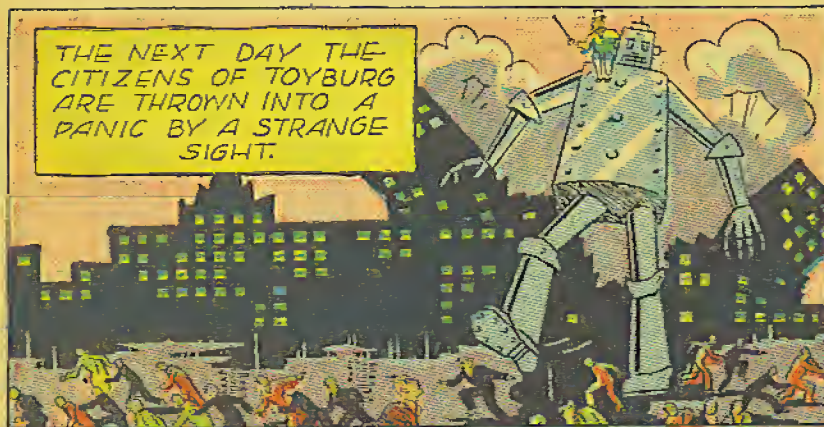
THE BROTHERS HAVE NO LANGUAGE TO SPEAK, BUT THEIR EYES TELL EACH OTHER THAT THEY WILL BOTH BE KINGS OF THE JUNGLE AND REIGN TOGETHER.



LION BOY WILL RETURN WITH MORE JUNGLE THRILLS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
HIT COMICS



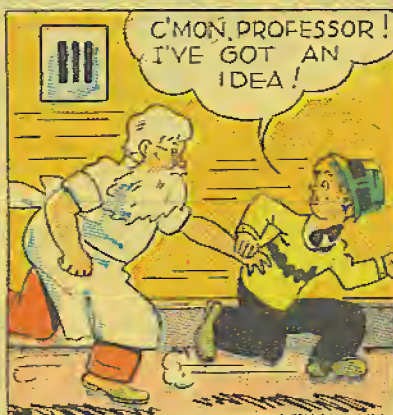
THE NEXT DAY THE CITIZENS OF TOYBURG ARE THROWN INTO A PANIC BY A STRANGE SIGHT.



HEAVENS! WE MUST FIND SOME WAY TO STOP THIS CARNAGE!



C'MON, PROFESSOR! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



I HOPE IT WORKS!

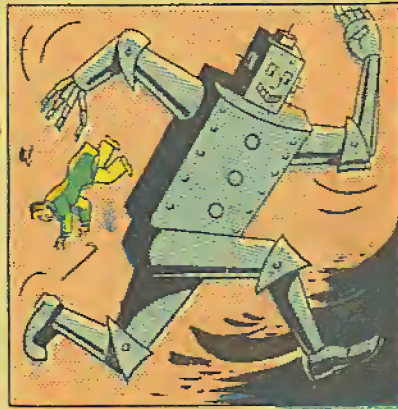
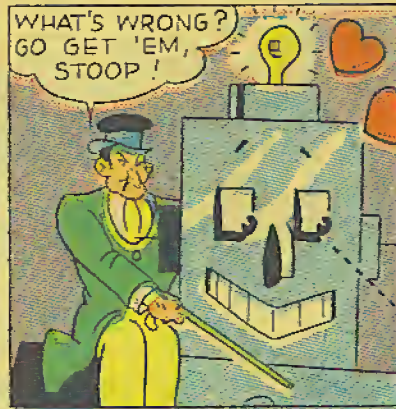
IT WILL, IF YOUR ROBOT IS AS HUMAN AS HE LOOKS!



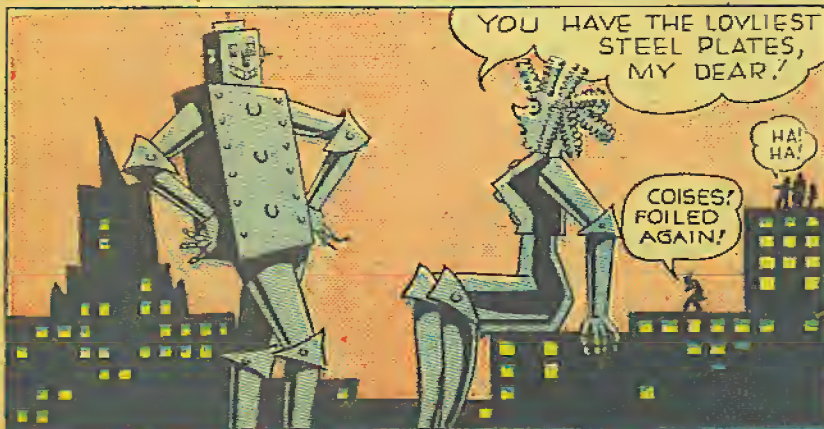
THE WOULD IS MY "ERSTER"!



WHAT'S WRONG? GO GET 'EM, STOOP!



YOU HAVE THE LOVELIEST STEEL PLATES, MY DEAR!

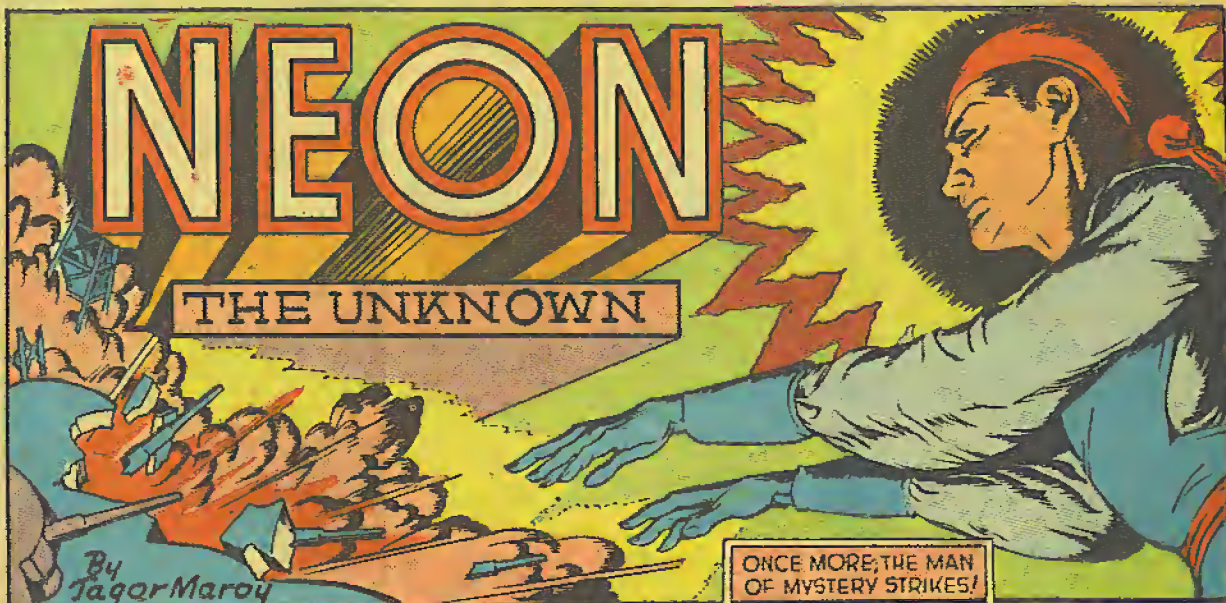


HA! HA!

COISES! FOILED AGAIN!

YOU CAN'T WIN!

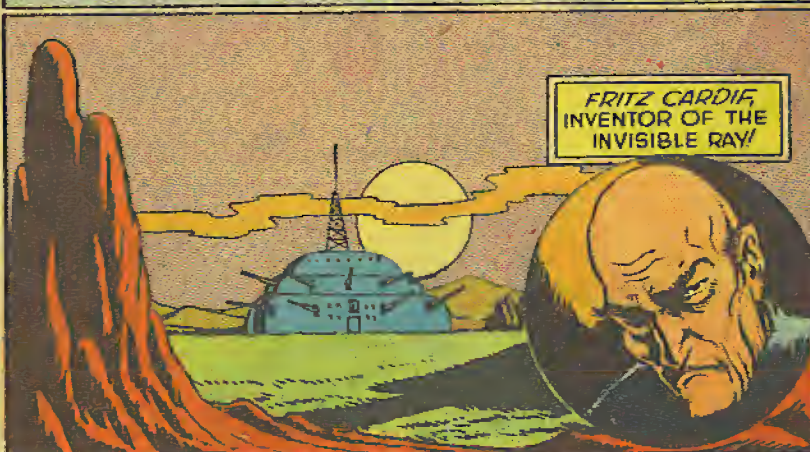




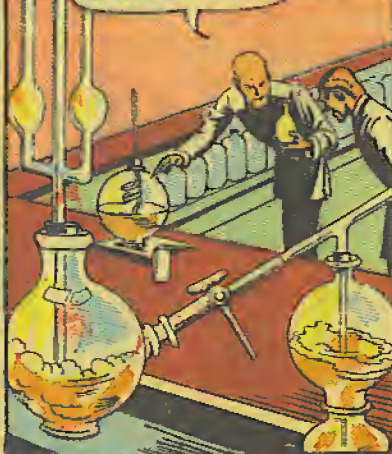
A THUNDERSTROCK WORLD HEARS NEWS OF COASTAL FORTS BLOWING UP SIMULTANEOUSLY.....



HOW CAN SUCH AN OUTRAGE OCCUR? IN A SECRET GLASS FORTRESS, HIDDEN ON THE VAST REACHES OF UNEXPLORED DESERT, LIES THE ANSWER..



THESE CHEMICALS MAKE UP THE FORMULA FOR MY RAY...THE RAY WHICH CAN IGNITE ANY EXPLOSIVE AT ANY DISTANCE!



AH! THE HELPLESS FOOLS HAVE BROUGHT THEIR NAVY INTO PLAY, EXPECTING TO FIND THEIR ENEMY ON THE SEAS...HAH! SHIPS LOADED WITH POWDER AND TORPEDOES!



CARDIFF TURNS HIS RAY ON THE FLEET AND IT IS DESTROYED BY ITS OWN AMMUNITION...



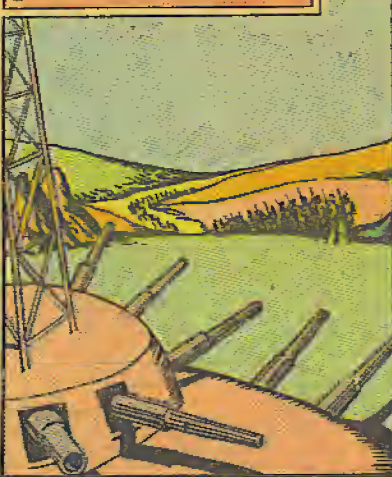
AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS. . . .

SECRET FORT DISCOVERED,
SIR! BELIEVED TO BE SOURCE
OF THE EXPLOSIONS!

WE'LL
SEND TROOPS
AT ONCE!



AS THE ARMY ADVANCES ACROSS
THE PLAINS, CARDIF AIMS HIS HUGE
BATTERY OF RAY GUNS. . . .



AND THE MEN ARE BLOWN TO BITS BY THE
EXPLODING CARTRIDGES IN THEIR BELTS
AND RIFLES.



BOMBING PLANES RECEIVE THE
SAME HORRIBLE FATE.



ALL AMERICA LISTENS AND TREMBLES

THERE SEEMS TO BE NO WAY TO
COMBAT THE MENACE/HAVE WE
FALLEN INTO THE POWER
OF THIS MADMAN?



CONGRESS ANSWERS.

NO -- NO, WE CANNOT ALLOW
THIS NATION TO PERISH BECAUSE
OF ONE INSANE GENIUS/WE MUST
ALL SACRIFICE OUR LIVES IF
NECESSARY, BUT. . .



SUDDENLY, A FLASHING BALL OF FIRE
STREAKS BEFORE THE SPEAKER. . . .



AND NEON, THE UNKNOWN, TAKES
SHAPE BEFORE THE ASTONISHED
AUDIENCE.

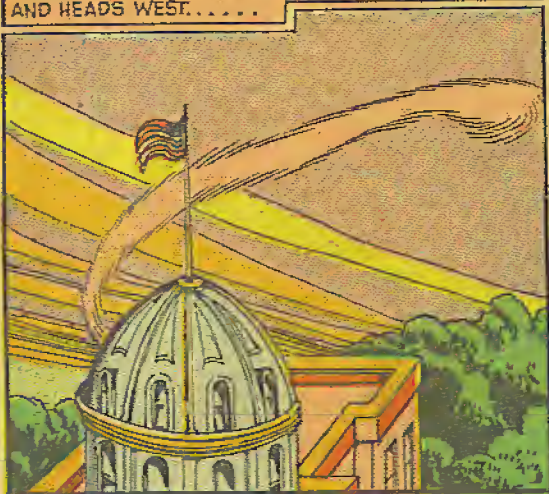


SACRIFICE MAY NOT BE
NECESSARY, BUT MORE THAN
HUMAN POWER IS NECESSARY
TO COMBAT THIS EVIL!

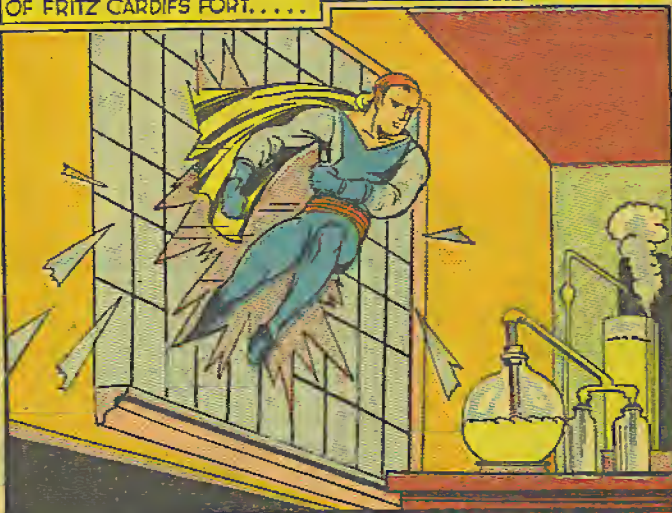
I BELIEVE I AM THE ONE TO
HELP YOU! GIVE ME 24 HOURS!
YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT
THE ENEMY WILL
FALL!



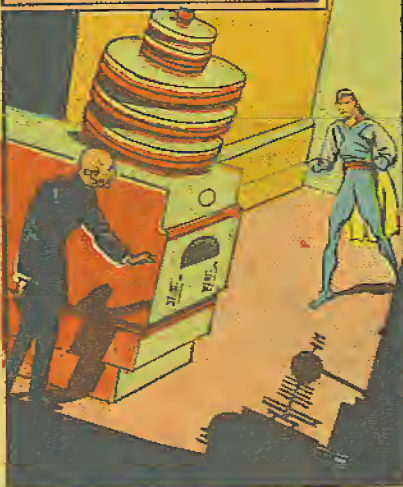
ONCE MORE NEON, TRANSFORMED TO A SPEEDING FIRE-BALL, FLASHES OUT OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING AND HEADS WEST.....



IN LESS THAN A MINUTE HE CRASHES THROUGH THE GLASS WALL OF FRITZ CARDIF'S FORT.....



FRIGHTENED BY THIS SUDDEN INTRUSION, CARDIF HIDES BEHIND A HUGE MACHINE.....

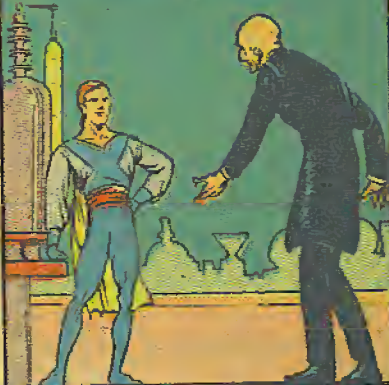


BUT SOON HE EMERGES....



AH...NEON, THIS UNEXPECTED VISIT IS INDEED AN HONOR...I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD COME!

YOU ARE THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD BESIDES MYSELF WITH ABSOLUTE POWER TO DOMINATE HUMANITY...TOGETHER, WE WILL MAKE A PERFECT TEAM!



NEON LISTENS IN COLD SILENCE...



WE OF COURSE KNOW THAT THAT MAN IS A STUPID ANIMAL...BUT WE CAN RAISE HIM FROM THAT BASE LEVEL!

BUT CARDIF CANNOT CONCEAL HIS DIABOLIC PURPOSE IN HIS POLITE MANNER.....



SHALL WE AGREE ON THAT, NEON?

I'LL PLAY ALONG AND SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO!

WE AGREE TO DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO BENEFIT MANKIND!

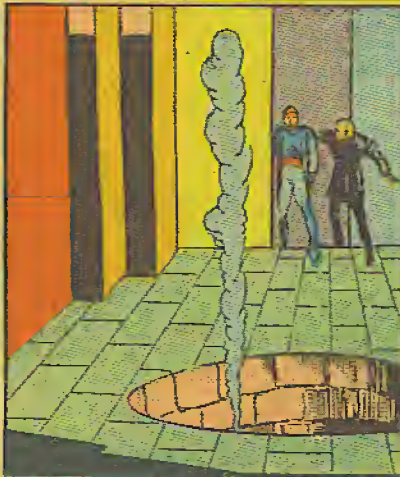


ER...EH... EXACTLY!

COME, NOW THAT YOU ARE MY PARTNER, I WILL SHOW YOU SOME OF MY GREAT SECRETS!

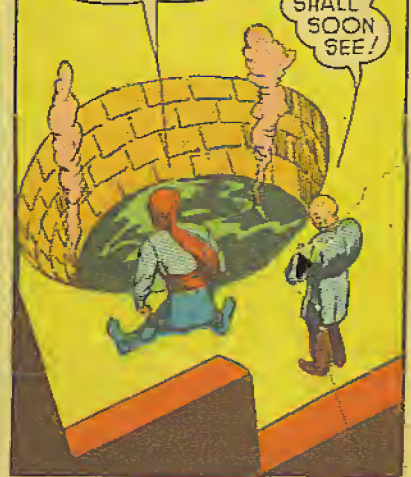


FRITZ LEADS NEON INTO AN INNER ROOM, WHERE HOT STEAM RISES FROM A PIT OF BOILING LIQUID!



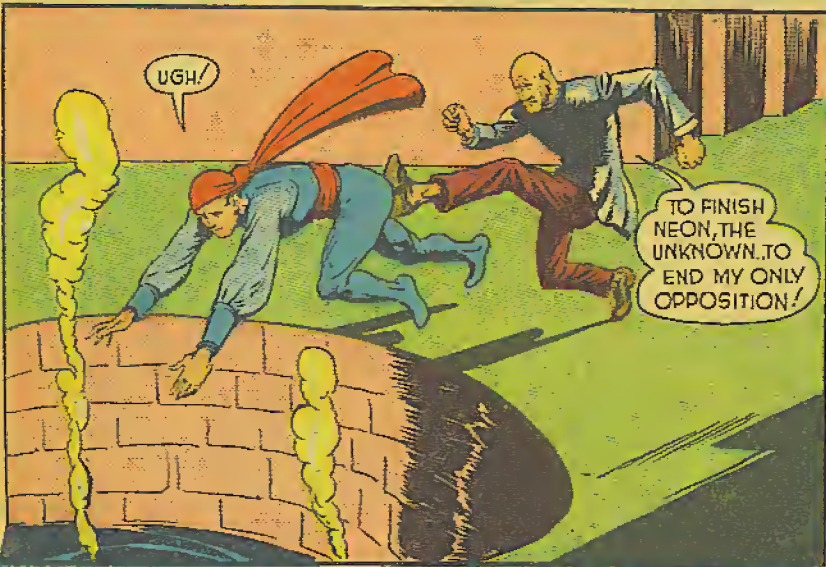
AND WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO USE THIS STUFF FOR?

YOU SHALL SOON SEE!



UGH!

TO FINISH NEON, THE UNKNOWN, TO END MY ONLY OPPOSITION!



HA! HA! THAT BOILING OIL WAS MADE ESPECIALLY TO ROB YOU OF YOUR NEONIC POWERS... I EXPECTED YOU, YOU SEE... WHEN YOU EMERGE FROM THAT BATH YOU'LL BE AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING!



AS NEON CLINGS TO THE RIM OF THE PIT, CARDIF CRUELLY STAMPS HIS FOOT ON HIS STRAINING FINGERS.....

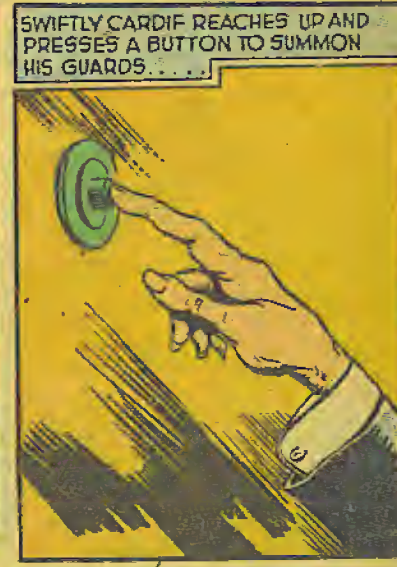
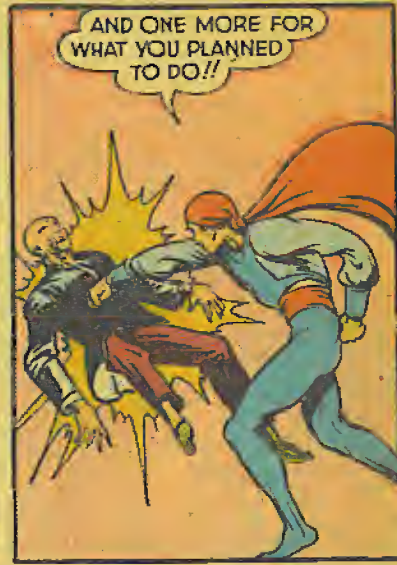
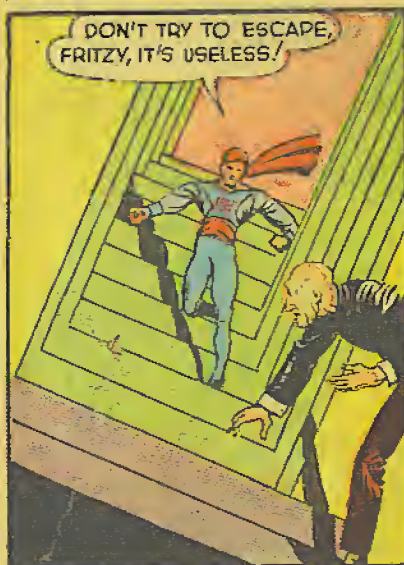


BUT AT LAST HE MANAGES TO PULL HIMSELF UP.....

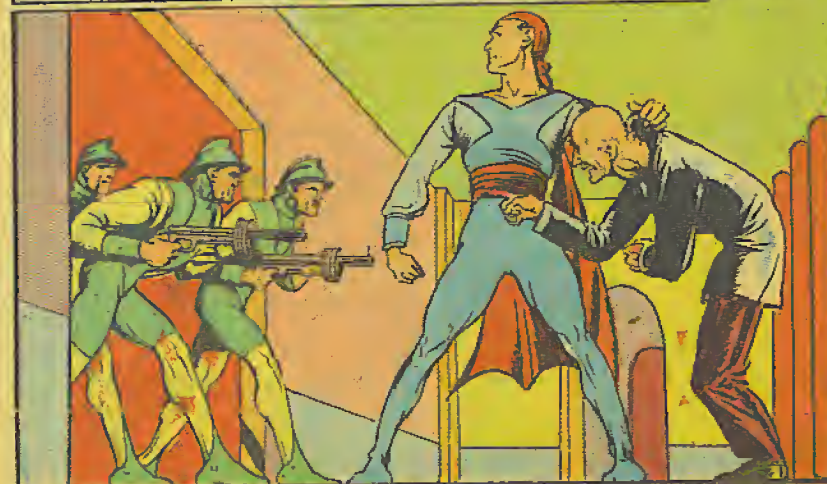


I'M VERY MUCH AFRAID THAT WAS A SHORT LIVED PARTNERSHIP, MY AMBITIOUS FRIEND!





HIS MEN APPEAR, ARMED WITH SMALL RAY SHOOTERS.... TO HIS DISMAY, NEON, REALIZES THAT THE VAPORS FROM THE BOILING PIT HAVE HAD SOME EFFECT.... HE HAS LOST HIS NEONIC POWERS.....









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